

CORRESPONDENCE

DRAWER 2

MRS. LINCOLN - LATER YEARS

71.2009 085.04443



# Mary Todd Lincoln

## Correspondence

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the  
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

FRY, COL. JOHN

A LETTER FROM MRS. LINCOLN. It has been published in the Southern papers that the sympathies of the President's wife are with the secessionists. The following very handsome letter received by one of our fellow Kentuckians, says the *Louisville Journal*, does not indicate it:

"EXECUTIVE MANSION, June 20, 1861.

Colonel John Fry—My Dear Sir: It gives me very great pleasure to be the medium of transmission of these weapons to be used in the defense of national sovereignty upon the soil of Kentucky.

Though some years have passed since I left my native State, I have never ceased to contemplate her progress in happiness and prosperity with sentiments of fond and filial pride. In every effort of industrial energy, in every enterprise of honor and valor, my heart has been with her. And I rejoice in the consciousness that, at this time, when the institutions to whose fostering care we owe all that we have of happiness and glory are rudely assailed by ungrateful and parricidal hands, the State of Kentucky, ever true and loyal, furnishes to the insulted flag of the Union a guard of her best and bravest sons. On every field the prowess of Kentuckians has been manifested. In the holy cause of national defense they must be invincible.

Please accept, sir, these weapons as a token of the love I shall never cease to cherish for my mother State, of the pride with which I have always regarded the exploits of her sons, and of the confidence which I feel in the ultimate loyalty of her people, who, while never forgetting the homage which their beloved State may justly claim, still remember the higher and grander allegiance due to our common country.

Yours very sincerely,  
MARY LINCOLN."

*Boston Journal July 13  
1861*

Mary Lincoln Letter to Manager of the Soldier Fair  
Springfield, Illinois

Executive Mansion  
December 24, 1864

....

Your letter of the 12th instant has been received, and it always affords one much pleasure to forward so laudable an object as the one mentioned in your note. I hasten to comply with your flattering request. I sincerely hope that your highest anticipation may be realized, given you what may be necessary to carry out plans which present not only a noble purpose, in the cause of our beloved and struggling country, but also a generous humane and great good in the comfort in the brave and noble hearts battling for the glorious Union. With heartfelt hope, I pray God speed you and crown your efforts with success.

Very truly yours

Mary Lincoln

Jan. 12, 1865. Putnam County (Ind.) Republican Banner

CHARLES SUMNER

## A Letter to Charles Sumner

By Mrs. Abraham Lincoln

[I find among the papers of John Greenleaf Whittier a letter from Mary Lincoln, written to Charles Sumner, April 2d, 1866. Senator Sumner sent it to Whittier because of the reference it contains to "Snow-Bound." This poem was published March 1st, 1866, and Mrs. Lincoln's comments upon it are among the first notes of the great chorus of welcome that greeted the poet's masterpiece. The whole letter, I think, is worthy of publication, as showing the tone and spirit of its writer in the first year of her widowhood. The speech of Sumner's to which she refers is no doubt his great speech against what is known as the Blaine amendment to the Constitution, which had passed the House by a large majority, but failed to secure a two-thirds vote in the Senate, although favored by Fessenden, Wilson, and other leading Republicans. It allowed the abridgment of the franchise on account of race or color, but excluded from the basis of representation all persons discriminated against. The fourteenth amendment, afterward adopted, omitted the objectionable reference to race and color. SAMUEL T. PICKARD.]

CHICAGO, April 2d, 1866.

HON. CHARLES SUMNER.

MY DEAR SIR:—I am reminded whilst reading this simple and natural poem, "Snow-Bound," that its author, Whittier, is a resident of your State and doubtless a personal friend of yours; and presuming that amidst the cares and anxieties of the past winter this little volume may have escaped your notice, therefore I take the liberty of sending it to you. I thank you kindly for your speech you sent me. I had already read it with much interest. How much misfortune would we be spared as a Nation if our faithless and unscrupulous President entertained the same views as yourself and all other *true* patriots. Unfortunately he is endeavoring to ignore all the good that has been accomplished, and returning the slave to his bondage. The contemptible act of refusing the freedmen of Richmond the privilege of celebrating the anniversary of their freedom

is but too *sure* an indication of *his* feelings towards the oppressed race. His wicked efforts will fail and justice and liberty triumph.

How sad and melancholy at this particular time the death of our noble friend, Senator Foot! Such good men at any time can be illy spared, but when each and every voice is needed to silence the traitors that still infest our land, his loss is very painful. His "passing away" was peaceful and triumphant; so much in unison with his well-spent life that it appears most sinful to wish him back. How many of the cherished friends of my beloved husband have within the past year entered into their rest and been reunited to *one* they loved so well whilst here. I am forgetting myself in writing you so lengthily a note, when I had merely intended a few lines. With apologies and assurance of friendship, I remain always truly,

MARY LINCOLN.



11-18 1867

Henry Ward Beecher

No Date

1867 ?

Mrs. Lincoln to Henry Ward Beecher.

DEAR SIR: When I was a resident of the presidential mansion no public man was a more frequent visitor than yourself, and no man was more hospitably received. Not only that, but you need not be reminded that of all the crowd of reverend gentlemen who were accustomed to ask and receive official favors none was a more liberal recipient than yourself. I have always been accustomed to believe that your professions of friendship to myself and late lamented husband were sincere; but knowing as you do, my destitute circumstances what am I to think of the value of those professions? A friend in need is a friend indeed.

I see by this morning's paper that you raised \$1,800 from the congregation of Plymouth church last Sunday morning for the relief of a colored woman somewhere down in Georgia. Without seeking to abate the claims of the Georgia lady would it be too much to ask you on next Sunday to put in a like claim on that congregation for the relief of a widow of the president of the United States? Tilton, I am told, is a member of that congregation. He is well off and I am sure he would give handsomely. So is Mr. Chittenden, who was once a candidate for republican congressman.

Another thought has struck me, and that is, that it would be good to advertise that you would give one-third the proceeds of your income from "Norwood" to the Lincoln relief fund, provided Thurlow Weed, or some other mean white, would contribute an equal sum.

You must excuse me for writing so to the point, but plain speaking, in cases of this kind, is always best for all concerned. Besides you are a minister of the gospel, and can understand better than the other politicians that "true religion" consists in visiting the widows and fatherless in affliction.

Yours in distress,

MRS. A. LINCOLN.

4.26.1870

7.4 2012-2013



To Mrs. Lincoln

No Date

Among the papers of the late John W. Forney, says the Philadelphia Press, was found the other day a letter from B. B. French, under date Washington, May 28, 1865, which gave fac-similes of some notes written by President Lincoln relative to his domestic affairs. One, sent to Mrs. Lincoln on the official paper of the Executive Mansion, was: "Mother—Please put somebody at work now on Tad's room. A. L." To this Mrs. Lincoln added a note to Mr. French, then Commissioner of Public Buildings, saying: "Please give Tad a board and some plank. Mrs. Lincoln." A card written by the President to Mr. French, on November 9, 1864, said: "If Commissioner of Public Buildings chooses to give laborers at White House a holiday, I have no objection. A. Lincoln." The proposed "holiday" was to be given after the re-election of President Lincoln.

1 unpublished

2

3 unpublished

French, Mr.

No Date

Mrs. Lincoln to Mr. French

"Please give Tad a board and some plank.

Mrs. Lincoln."

## LETTER FROM MRS. LINCOLN.

Death of Her Husband Seemed Like a  
Terrible Dream. 1655

Noah Brooks, who was a war correspondent, and was on terms of peculiar intimacy with Lincoln, contributes further reminiscences of the emancipator and of war-time scenes in Washington. After recounting the death of Dr. A. G. Henry, by the wrecking of the steamer Brother Jonathan, Mr. Brooks says:

The tragical episode that marked the close of the career of Dr. Henry, Lincoln's good friend, may best be concluded here with a letter from Mrs. Lincoln in which touching reference is made to him and to her husband. I may as well explain that the "claims" referred to in Mrs. Lincoln's letter were certain shares of "wild-cat" stock sent to her in her days of prosperity, and which the poor lady thought might be sold for a small sum. This is her letter:

Chicago, May 11, 1866.—Noah Brooks, Esq., San Francisco: My Dear Sir—A few days since I received a very sad letter from Mrs. Henry, in which she vividly portrays her great desolation and dependence upon others for every earthly comfort. I am induced to enclose you the Nevada claims, and also a petroleum claim, hoping that you may be able to secure a purchaser for them, in which case I will most cheerfully give Mrs. Henry some of the proceeds. I am aware that I am taxing your kindness very greatly, yet the remembrance of your great esteem for my beloved husband and Dr. Henry would excuse the intrusion upon you. I wish you were not so far removed from us—true friends, in these overwhelming days of affliction, I find to be very rare. I find myself clinging more tenderly to the memory of those who, if not so remote, would be more friendly.

I hope you will be able to visit Mrs. Henry the coming summer. I sometimes, in my wildness and grief, am tempted to believe that it is some terrible, terrible dream, and that my idolized husband will return to me. Poor Dr. Henry! He who wept so truly and freely with us in our great misfortune, how soon he was called to join the beloved one who had so recently "gone before!" In my own great sorrow how often I have prayed for death to end my own great misery.

My sons are well, and a great comfort to me. \* \* \* Robert and Taddie remember you very kindly. I hope you will write to us more frequently. I am well aware of the deep sympathy you feel for us, and the great affection and confidence my husband cherished for you draws you very near to us. With apologies for troubling you as I am now doing, I remain, always sincerely your friend,

MARY LINCOLN.  
—Century Magazine.

1864

Mrs. Lincoln as a Nurse.

"I have a letter you would like to see, I guess," said Assemblyman James H. Agen, of West Superior.

"With you?" 6-24-1857

"No. It is too precious to carry around in a grip or pocket."

"Who wrote it, and what does it contain?"

"Let me tell you a story before answering your double question: In 1864, while following Grant near Richmond, and when we had come so close to it that they could hear our muskets, and we their church bells, I was stricken with a fever and sent to hospital. In time they landed me, more dead than alive, in one of the great hospitals at Washington. I was a very sick boy. Boy is right, for that was all I was—sweet 16, as a girl of that age would be. For three weeks I had no ambition to live.

"One day, after I had passed the danger point, and was taking a little notice of what was going on, a number of ladies came through the hospital. They had baskets containing delicacies and bouquets of beautiful flowers. One of them stopped at each cot as they passed along. A bunch of blossoms was handed to each sick or wounded soldier, and if he desired it a delicacy of some kind was also distributed. Every now and then one of the women sat in a camp chair and wrote a letter for the poor fellow who hadn't the strength to write himself.

"I wanted nothing to eat or drink, but those pretty posies held my attention. One of the ladies stopped at my cot. I hadn't yet got my full growth, and in my then emaciated, pale condition I must have looked like a child. She seemed surprised as she looked at me.

"You poor child, what brought you here?"

"They sent me here from the Army of the Potomac."

"But you are not a soldier?"

"Yes, madam. I belong to a New York regiment. The surgeon here has the record."

"Can I do anything for you? Can you eat something or take a swallow of wine?"

"I'm not hungry or thirsty."

"Can I write a letter for you?"

"Not to-day. I'm too weak."

"Then I will leave some of these flowers with you. President Lincoln helped to cull them. I will come again in two or three days. Keep up

your courage. You are going to get well. You must get well."

"She was the first woman who had spoken to me since I had reached the army. Looking at the sweet flowers which Mr. Lincoln had 'helped to cull,' and thinking of the dear woman who had spoken so kindly and hopefully had more effect in brightening my spirits than all else that had occurred in the hospital.

"Three days later the same lady came again, and direct to my cot.

"How is my little soldier boy to-day?" she asked in a way so motherly that it reminded me of my good mother back in New York, the patriot mother who had given her consent to my going to the war after praying over the matter many times. The hospital angel—that was what we learned to call those noble women—after giving me a taste of chicken and jelly, asked me if I had a mother. She saw by the tears in my eyes that I had.

"Now we will write mother a letter."

"Then she sat by my side and wrote the letter. I hadn't been able to write for a month.

"I have told your mother that I am near her soldier boy and have talked with him. What shall I tell her for you? That you are still too weak to write yourself?"

"Please don't tell her that. It will make her worry. Tell her I am fast getting well."

"The first day I got home my mother asked me how I liked Mrs. Lincoln, the President's wife.

"I never met Mrs. Lincoln. What made you think I had?"

"Then she took from a box closely guarded in an old bureau a letter. It read like this:

"Dear Mrs. Agen: I am sitting by the side of your soldier boy. He has been quite sick, but is getting well. He tells me to say to you that he is all right. With respect for the mother of the young soldier,

"MRS. ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

"That was the first that I knew that it was the President's wife who had made me those two visits. I begged my mother to give me the letter. 'You can have it when I am gone.' When she died, a box and an old letter folded in a silk handkerchief were among her gifts to me.

"The box, kerchief and letter will pass along the Agen line as mementos too sacred for everyday display.—Chicago Times-Herald.



Mary Lincoln Letter

May. 26, 1865

In May, 1865, shortly after her husband's assassination, Mrs. Lincoln sent the following letter to Isaac Newton, a Quaker of many benevolent instincts who was in charge of the Department of Agriculture at Washington:

ISAAC NEWTON

"CHICAGO, ILLINOIS.

"Tremont House, May 26.

"My dear Mr. Newton :

"We arrived here in safety on Wednesday at noon, wearied in body and very sick at heart, as you may well imagine.

"If our Merciful Father when He allowed my beloved husband to have been removed had only permitted my

own worthless life to have been taken, I feel assured, from the future of sorrow and privation which is unmistakably before us, much anguish would have been spared me.

"My precious boys alone remain to bless me, and my pain is intense when I think of the deep waters they are so early called to pass through. As for myself, my burden is almost too heavy to bear, and there is no way of escape.

"Robert had written for two bedrooms and a small parlor; we have occupied them for two days, but a friend informed us to-day that the latter—the charge for parlor—is always at this house ten dollars a day and in Fair Week it will be doubled. So we have concluded, as our means are very small and reduced, that we will give up to-morrow the luxury of a parlor, as small as it is. Next week we propose seeking lodgings some three or four miles out where lodging may be cheaper, and Robert can come in by railroad every morning by nine o'clock to attend to his business and return in the evening.

"Doctor Henry left here this morning for Springfield; he says it is just as he feared here—not the least sign of anything being done for us, and we not able to board at a first-class house. Dear Mr. Newton, what a sad change for us without my darling husband in this world, and reduced after occupying the station we did. If we had him with us again a crust would be sufficient for me. As it is, it is humiliating for us to know and have the world feel that the blight has fallen upon us in every way.

"It is very strange that my good and noble husband, whose delight was ever to be open-handed, should thus be rewarded for his love of his country and the cause of humanity. Yet, even situated as we are, I would not recall one dollar he ever gave to the needy and suffering.

"Your friend,

"MARY LINCOLN."

1907

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HENRY WILSON

**LINCOLN AUTOGRAPHS ON SALE**

One of His Letters Says He Was Too Busy to Sit for a Photograph.

More than 250 items, autograph letters, etc., relating to Abraham Lincoln and members of his family, the lot bound in two folio volumes, are in a sale at Anderson's on March 19.

Among the Abraham Lincoln letters and documents are the following:

A letter, dated Springfield, Ill., March 14, 1860, saying that his many engagements had prevented him from sitting for his photograph.

A letter to Bayard Taylor, Executive Mansion, Dec. 25, 1863, suggesting a lecture or two on "Serfs, Serfdom and Emancipation in Russia."

A letter to Gen. Stoneman, Aug., 1863, in behalf of E. B. Day, "whose friends do not know where he is, but fear he has been executed, or is under sentence of death somewhere as a deserter."

There is a letter of Mrs. Lincoln, written to Henry Wilson on the death of his son, in which she refers to her husband's death. The letter is dated Chicago, Jan. 3, 1867. In it she says:

"Bowed down, as I am, with my own fearful bereavement, I cannot refrain from an expression of my heartfelt sympathy. Time has, as yet, brought me no consolation. \* \* \* I remember well hearing my beloved husband speak of your dear son with great commendation." The letter is signed "Mary Lincoln."

New York 1909

## CONCERNING GEN. GRANT

**SALE OF LINCOLN LETTERS**

**Epistles of Widow of Martyr to Be  
Disposed Of at Auction.**

NEW YORK, May 17.—What are known as "Mrs. Lincoln's bitter letters" are to be sold at auction here next week. The collection consists of twelve letters written by the widow of the martyred president in the years just following his assassination. In some of them Mrs. Lincoln was almost hysterical in upbraiding congress for not providing for her and in her denunciation of General Grant.

One letter, written in August, 1865, asks a friend to try to sell the black lace gown which Mrs. Lincoln wore at the second inauguration "for two hours" only, in order to raise money for the support of herself and two boys. The gown was one presented to her by a friend of her husband and it cost \$3,500.

In another letter, dated December 30, 1865, Mrs. Lincoln writes bitterly of the fortunes of the Grant family as compared with her own, and declares that "General Grant's services to his country were certainly not superior to my husband's."

## N. Y. Auction Brings to Light Epistles Hidden for Years.

### BITTER TOWARD U. S. GRANT

#### Wife of Martyr Tells of Poverty While General Receives Rich Gifts.

New York, May 26.—[Special].—Letters written by Mary Todd Lincoln, the wife of Abraham Lincoln, which have been hidden away for more than forty years, came to light again today in a sale of autograph letters and manuscripts at the Anderson auction rooms. They were written in 1870, when Mrs. Lincoln, broken in courage and health by financial and other worries that came upon her after the assassination of her husband, wrote appeals to her friends in power, asking them to use their influence to have congress pass an appropriation for her assistance.

#### Recalls Gifts to Grant.

The letters show a bitter feeling for Gen. Grant. Writing to her friend, Mrs. Orne, wife of Congressman Orne, from Chicago, she says:

"Gen. Grant, whose services to his country were certainly not 'superior' to my husband's, within the last eighteen months has had three elegant mansions presented him, a salary of \$13,000 a year he enjoys.

"On New Year's day he is to be presented with \$100,000, an elegant library in Boston, and the prospect of his being made general with his salary increased to \$25,000 a year. Life is certainly 'couleur de rose' for him, if it is all darkness and gloom to the unhappy family of the fallen chief."

The following letter was written from Marienbad, where Mrs. Lincoln had been ordered by her physician:

"How strangely surprising are the events that are hourly occurring in our lives. I went into F—only twenty minutes by rail—to get Taddie some schoolbooks, see my physician about a new medicine he had given me, and 'see the papers.' An English paper said the senate committee had decided against me on the ground that I had property to the amount of \$60,000—a fearful and wicked invention of the enemy, which infamous falsehood will consign me to a most painful state of existence all my days. Will our country, with its many noble hearted men, allow this?"

#### Tells of Living in Poverty.

In other letters—there were twelve in all—Mrs. Lincoln described the discomforts her poverty had forced upon her. Finally on Jan. 13, 1870, she wrote of "Grant and his wife's utter indifference and heartlessness."

"They are intensely small, selfish people," she wrote, "and it will be more than fully realized ere their administration is over. But do you tell me that already by this congress an appropriation has been given Grant for refurnishing the White House, whilst the wife of the great chieftain whose life was sacrificed for his country, is living in an uncarpeted apartment—ill in bed without a menial to hand her a cup of cold water? Will our friends not brand Grant openly if he cannot faintly respond to the appeals of great and good men? Burn this I pray you."

This letter, the most acrimonious of all, brought the best price of the sale. It was sold to George D. Smith for \$50. The letter to Miss Orne brought \$30 from an unknown bidder. A letter in which Mrs. Lincoln refused to sell a black lace dress also brought \$30.

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# LINCOLN LETTERS FOUND

BENJAMIN B. SHERMAN

## Missives Written by Emancipator's Wife Show Family to Have Been in Financial Straits

BY RAYMOND G. CARROLL  
[EXCLUSIVE DISPATCH]

[Copyright, 1922, Public Ledger.]

1922

NEW YORK, Dec. 16.—In an old rosewood bookcase, B. Sherman Fowler, a New York musical composer has found two letters written by Mrs. Abraham Lincoln shortly after the death of the President, to his grandfather, Benjamin B. Sherman, who was president of the Central Union Trust Company and a founder of the Union League Club. The letters complain of the pinched condition of the Lincoln family. "We have indeed lost our all; the idolized husband and father is no more with us—we are homeless and in return for the sacrifices my great and noble husband made, both in his life and in his death, the paltry first year's salary is offered to us, under the circumstances."

In the center of an art studio window on East Forty-fifth street today, we observed a bronze tablet of beauty with this inscription: "Presented to Camp Kennebec, Junior, by the parents of the campers in 1922, in grateful appreciation of splendid service rendered." It came to mind that Camp Kennebec, Junior, which is located on the shores of Lake Belgrade in the State of Maine, is owned by two Philadelphians, Louis M. Fleisher and Samuel J. Friedman.

"Rather unusual tribute," said the manager of the studio. "The story, as I heard it, is that during a threatened epidemic of infantile paralysis last summer the camp managers immediately obtained the advice and personal attendance of Dr. Josephine Neel, the expert of the Rockefeller Institute on that dread malady. At the time there were seventy-two children in the camp, whose parents are now taking this way of showing Messrs. Fleisher and Friedman their deep gratitude as they had refused material reimbursement. The border of the tablet is filled with Indian inscriptions and designs, symbolical of the Indian lore that is fed into the youthful minds of the campers."

During the sale of the late Lillian Russell's collection of jewels, art objects and personal effects then going on in New York City, a lady was standing at the two glass cases in which were displayed necklaces, rings and other ornaments once worn by the comic opera star. "Those in one of the cases are all fake jewelry," was the information offered by a man who had the demeanor of an official of the sale. The lady afterwards repeated what had been told her to an indignant friend of the late Miss Russell and an appeal for redress was made to those in charge of the sale.

The man who had made the comment was faced, and asked to give his name. He replied: "Sam Schepps—I am a dealer." It developed that he was the same Sam Schepps who figured prominently several years ago in the Herman Rosenthal murder case, and who is now the proprietor of a jewelry store in Longacre Square. It has long been a practice at auction sales for professional buyers to attend and depreciate values of articles with amateurs present, thus eliminating competition, and comment was made of this fact in connection with the remark of Schepps.

## MRS. LINCOLN TOLD NEED

NEW YORK MAN HAS OLD LETTERS FROM THE MARTYR'S WIDOW.

"Our Adverse Fate and Injustice of People Who Owed Him So Much Do Not Lessen Our Heavy Trials," She Wrote.

NEW YORK, Dec. 15. Two letters, believed to have been written by Mrs. Abraham Lincoln, describing the straitened circumstances of the martyred President's family shortly after his death, were produced here yesterday by R. Sherman Fowler, who said he found them recently in a secret panel of an old rosewood bookcase, which came to him recently as an heirloom from his grandfather, Benjamin B. Sherman, a founder of the Union League Club.

The letters, Fowler said, were written to his grandfather, who was president of the Central Union Trust Company and at the time was in charge of a "dollar fund," which collected \$10,747 for Lincoln's widow.

### WIDOW EXPRESSES HUMILIATION.

The first letter, dated the day after Christmas, 1865, and signed Mary Lincoln, said in part:

"We are homeless, and in return for the sacrifice my great and noble husband made, both in life and in his death, the paltry first year's salary is offered to us under the circumstances.

"Such injustice has been done us calls the blush to my true, loyal heart. The sum is in reality only \$20,000, as the first month's salary was paid my husband, and I presume the tax on it will be deducted from it. The interest will be about \$1,500. I am humiliated when I think that we are destined to be forever homeless. I can write no more."

"WE HAVE LOST OUR ALL."

The letter began:

*My Dear Sir:* Although my son wrote you a letter yesterday, I have concluded to write and thank you most gratefully for your kind interest in our deeply afflicted family. We have, indeed, lost our all; the idolized husband and father is no more with us, and, if possible, our adverse fate and the great injustice of a people who owed so much to my beloved husband does not contribute toward lessening our heavy trials. Sir Morton Peto gave a farewell dinner to his friends in New York in return for their polite attentions to him.

### TELLS OF RECEIVING SALARY.

The second letter, dated January 13, 1866, is longer and tells of receiving from congress the salary due Mr. Lincoln. In it Mrs. Lincoln also discusses a bill which a Mr. Moses held

against her. The amount was not stated.

Mr. Fowler said he expected to turn the letters over to the New York Historical Society, of which he is a member, with a cash book of the dollar fund, also found in the bookcase compartment.

## Mrs. Lincoln's Notes Found Assassination Left Her Poor Business Matters Revealed

Leased Wire to The Republican

NEW YORK, Dec. 23. Four

hitherto unpublished letters of Mrs. Abraham Lincoln, written shortly after her husband's assassination, were made public today by a grandson of General Francis B. Spinner, then treasurer of the United States.

Three of these letters are to General Spinner and one is to Lincoln's Robert, phrased in formal business terms and relating to a business matter, but substantiating also other letters indicating the poverty of Mrs. Lincoln following her husband's assassination.

The first communication to General Spinner, dated Clifton House, Chicago, December 30, 1865, refers to the sum allowed by Congress to Mrs. Lincoln earlier in 1865. It reads:

"General Spinner,

"My dear sir: Mr. Wentworth called last evening and proposed writing you today, relative to the \$5 thousand dollars in seven thirties, the remaining nine thousand dollars in money. I trust, notwithstanding the arduous duties of your office, your health remains good. I am very gratefully yours,

"Mary Lincoln."

With this letter was a receipt for 22 thousand dollars issued by the Adams Express company to General Spinner for a packet containing that amount, to be sent by the company to Mrs. Lincoln.

The two other letters to General Spinner are as follows:

"Chicago, January 11, 1866.

"Dear Sir: Since you were so kind as to offer to collect the money coming to me in seven thirties, I enclose you the draft endorsed to your order for that purpose. I will leave it to your discretion as to which of the issues to take at present price. The draft will purchase 22 thousand dollars listed bonds and leave some margin. Please send me a draft for the surplus. With kind thanks for your service, I remain, your truly,

"Mary Lincoln."

(Private.)

"Chicago, July 28, 1866.

"Dear Sir: You will kindly pardon my long delay in refunding to you the ten dollars you loaned to Mr. Williamson on my behalf. For your consideration pray accept my thanks. At the same time may I trouble you to have sent to Galt and Brothers the remaining sum due them, and in turn receive the receipt. Also will you return the receipt to me? With high respect, I remain, very truly yours,

"Mary Lincoln."

The letter to Robert Lincoln, marked "Private and Confidential" and dated Chicago, January 1, 1866, reads:

"Robert Lincoln: Thinking it

was likely you would attend to Mr. Wentworth's request as soon as practicable, I wrote you in that form to send the money, as this last was my only reason for writing. I will trust to your friendship for not saying you have received a line from me on the subject. With assurances of high esteem, I remain, your truly,

"Mary Lincoln."



# LINCOLN'S WIDOW WROTE OF POVERTY

Letters Found by a Composer  
Here Tell of Pecuniary Distress  
After President's Death.

## DISCOVERED IN OLD DESK

One Complains of Injustice of the  
People—Another Shows Worry  
Over Debt.

Two letters from Mrs. Abraham Lincoln written shortly after the assassination of her husband showing plainly her pecuniary distress, have been found by B. Sherman Fowler, a composer, of 31 East Forty-ninth Street, in a secret compartment of an old rosewood desk. Both letters are addressed to Benjamin B. Sherman, Mr. Fowler's grandfather, who was a financier and was in charge of the "Dollar Fund" which collected \$10,747.77 for Mrs. Lincoln. He was President of the Mechanics National Bank, a founder of the Central Trust Company and of the Union League Club, a Senior Warden of Grace Church and connected with many financial, patriotic and other institutions.

With the letters, behind the secret panel, were found the cash book of the "Dollar Fund" and a curious old gold pen which apparently belonged to Mr. Sherman. The desk itself is an heirloom. A cabinet worker recently offered Mr. Fowler \$1,000 for it. Mr. Fowler remembers it in the old family mansion at 16 East Twentieth Street, but knew nothing of the hidden compartments until a few days ago, when he became curious over what appeared to be waste space. With a knife he pried open the panel to discover the documents that will probably be turned over to the New York Historical Society as valuable evidence concerning Mrs. Lincoln, a little known person in history.

### Mrs. Lincoln "Homeless."

The first letter is dated the day after Christmas, 1865, and is from Chicago. It reads:

"My Dear Sir: Although my son wrote you a letter on yesterday, I have concluded to write and thank you, most gratefully, for your kind interest in our deeply afflicted family. We have, indeed, lost our all; the idolized husband and father is no more with us, and, if possible, our adverse fate and the great injustice of a people who owed so much to my beloved husband does not contribute toward lessening our heavy trials. Sir Morton Peto gave a farewell dinner to his friends in New York in return for their polite attentions to him. We are homeless, and in return for the sacrifice my great and noble husband made, both in his life and in his death, the paltry first year's salary is offered us, under the circumstances; such injustice has been done us as calls the blush to any true, loyal heart. The sum is in reality only \$20,000, as the first month's salary was paid my husband, and I presume the tax on it will be deducted from it. The interest of it will be about \$1,500. I am humiliated when I think that we are destined to be forever homeless. I can write no more. I remain, very respectfully,

MARY LINCOLN.

P. S.—I omitted to say, my dear Sherman, mentioning to you what

has been told me several times lately, persons apparently reliable saying that to their knowledge \$10,000 in money toward the dollar fund had been raised in Boston. I mention this so that you might write to Boston to ascertain the truth of this report. Knowing my anxiety to have a home where we could at least have some privacy and your good feeling for us in our distress will, I am sure, induce you to write about this to B. Excuse my troubling you in this matter, &c. I agree with R. (her son Robert) it is best not to advertise; if there is anything at such an hour as this, it will be forthcoming. M. L."

The Sir Morton Peto referred to was an Englishman much entertained while on a visit to this country, so much so that the contrast between his treatment and that of her dead husband seems to have struck Mrs. Lincoln.

### Worried Over a Bill.

The second letter is dated Chicago, Jan. 13, 1866. The General Spinner alluded to in the second sentence appears to be Francis Elias Spinner, once a shoemaker, and at that date Treasurer of the United States.

"My Dear Sir: The enclosed letter has just been received from Mr. Godfrey. General Spinner, two days ago, sent me the sum allowed by Congress, deducting six weeks from it with interest, making it \$22,025, leaving me to pay the income tax, which will leave only \$20,000. Presuming, as Mr. Moses and Mr. Godfrey did, that you intended settling with them immediately, by return mail, I sent the draft back to General Spinner to have him place it in seven-thirties, and return it to me. Now what am I to do? Will there be any objections on your part to settle with Moses when you receive this? I can certainly see no reason to the contrary. It will be very inconvenient for me now to change the money as it is placed. May I ask you, as a last favor, to see Mr. Moses and Godfrey, when you receive this, and have the f— (first?) bill cut down considerably? Your influence can accomplish this. You will see by Mr. Godfrey's letter that there is not an hour's delay. If you will not accede to this proposition, will you please telegraph me, when you receive this. I earnestly request that you see Mr. Godfrey and Moses without fail when you receive this.

"I have written to Mr. Bentley, ten days since, with reference to this, and he does not reply. I requested him to have the amount greatly reduced and send me the bill, and urge upon you to settle it. This certainly appeared to be the best use to make of some of the funds you may have. I write in great haste and much harassed by Godfrey's letter and this unsettled business. Will you grant my requests, see Moses and Godfrey, and if you are not inclined to settle with them, please telegraph me, so that by some manner of means, as inconvenient as it is, I must make some arrangements to settle without an hour's delay. As to Mr. Godfrey's expenses to Washington, &c., I had no knowledge of his intention to present himself on the occasion and with my limited means could scarcely meet that expense. Most earnestly praying you will grant my requests, I remain truly and gratefully,

### "MARY LINCOLN."

Mr. Fowler does not know the facts about his grandfather's management of the "Dollar Fund," nor who all the persons alluded to may have been. It appears that Moses and Godfrey were lawyers of some kind connected with the matter. Mr. Fowler said that historical experts interested in this matter would be able to discover the facts that were common knowledge in his family fifty-six years ago.

Mary Lincoln Letter

Dec. 26, 1865

BENJAMIN SHERMAN

EMBER 17, 1922.

WEIR

# FOUR MORE LETTERS FROM MRS. LINCOLN

*Part letter to 422*  
Were Written by the President's  
Widow Soon After the  
Assassination.

## THREE TO GENERAL SPINNER

Relate to Sum Allowed by Congress  
to President's Widow—Fourth  
to Robert Lincoln.

Four additional letters of Mrs. Abraham Lincoln, written soon after her husband's assassination, were shown to a TIMES reporter yesterday by a grandson of General Francis E. Spinner, then Treasurer of the United States, who saw in THE TIMES last Sunday the correspondence of Mrs. Lincoln revealing her poverty and was prompted to search among his own memorabilia.

Three of these letters are to General Spinner and one is to Mrs. Lincoln's son, Robert, phrased in formal terms and relating to a business matter. The first communication to General Spinner, dated Clifton House, Chicago, Dec. 30, 1865, refers to the sum allowed by Congress to Mrs. Lincoln earlier in 1865. It reads:

General Spinner.  
"My dear Sir: Mr. Wentworth called last evening and proposed writing you today relative to the \$25,000 in seven-thirties, the remaining \$9,000 in money. I trust, notwithstanding the arduous duties of your office, your health remains good. I am very gratefully yours,  
"MARY LINCOLN."

With this letter was a receipt for \$22,000, issued by the Adams Express Company to General Spinner for a packet containing that amount, to be sent by the company to Mrs. Lincoln. The two other letters to General Spinner are as follows:

"Chicago, Jan. 11, 1866.  
"Dear Sir—Since you were so kind as to offer to correct the money coming to me in seven-thirties, I enclose you the draft endorsed to your order for that purpose. I will leave it to your discretion as to which of the issues to take at the present market price. The draft will purchase \$22,000 listed bonds and leave some margin. Please send me a draft for the surplus. With kind thanks for your service I remain, your truly,  
"MARY LINCOLN."

"(Private) Chicago, July 23, 1866.  
"Dear Sir—You will kindly pardon my delay in refunding to you the \$10 you loaned to Mr. Williamson on my behalf. For your consideration pray accept my thanks. At the same time may I trouble you to have sent to Galt & Bros. the remaining sum due them, and in return receive their receipt? Also will you return the receipt to me? With high respect I remain, very truly,  
"MARY LINCOLN."

The letter to Robert Lincoln marked "private and confidential" and dated Chicago, Jan. 1, 1866, reads:

"Robert Lincoln: Thinking it was likely you would attend to Mr. Wentworth's request so soon as practicable, I wrote to you in what form to send the money, as this last was my only reason for writing. I will trust to your friendship for not saying you have received a line from me on the subject. With assurances of high esteem, I remain, your truly,  
"MARY LINCOLN."

SPINNER, GEN. - *Letter 31, 1865*  
LINCOLN, ROBERT - *Letter 1, 1866*



# Lincoln's Poverty Revealed

## Letters of Wife Tell of Money Troubles

### Financial Distress Is Told

Special by Leased Wire to The Chronicle

NEW YORK, Dec. 19.—Four hitherto unpublished letters of Mrs. Abraham Lincoln, written shortly after her husband's assassination, were shown to The Chronicle correspondent by a grandson of General Francis E. Spinner, then Treasurer of the United States.

Three of these letters are to General Spinner and one is to Lincoln's son, Robert, phrased in formal business terms and relating to a business matter, but substantiating all other letters indicating the poverty of Mrs. Lincoln following her husband's assassination.

#### ASKS FOR ALLOWANCE

The first communication to General Spinner, dated Clifton House, Chicago, December 30, 1865, refers to the sum allowed by Congress to Mrs. Lincoln earlier in 1865. It reads:

"General Spinner:

"My dear Sir: Mr. Wentworth called last evening and proposed writing you today, relative to the \$25,000 in seven thirties, the remaining \$9000 in money. I trust, notwithstanding the arduous duties of your office, your health remains good. I am very gratefully yours,

"MARY LINCOLN."

With this letter was a receipt for \$22,000 issued by the Adams Express Company to General Spinner for a packet containing that amount, to be sent by the company to Mrs. Lincoln.

The two other letters to General Spinner are as follows:

"Chicago, January 11, 1866.

"Dear Sir: Since you were so

kind as to offer to collect the money coming to me in seven thirties, I enclose you the draft endorsed to your order for that purpose. I will leave it to your discretion as to which of the issues to take at the present price. The draft will purchase \$22,000 listed bonds and leave some margin. Please send me a draft for the surplus. With thanks for your service, I remain,

truly

"MARY LINCOLN."

#### TO LOAN

Jan. 23, 1866.—Dear

kindly pardon my

enclosing to you the \$10

you to Mr. Williamson on my behalf. For your consideration pray accept my thanks. At the same time may I trouble you to have sent to Galt & Bros. the remaining sum due them, and in return receive the receipt. Also will you return the receipt to me. With high respect I remain, very truly yours.

"MARY LINCOLN."

The letter to Robert Lincoln, marked "Private and Confidential" and dated Chicago, January 1, 1866, reads:

"Robert Lincoln: Thinking it was likely you would attend to Mr. Wentworth's request as soon as practicable I wrote you in what form to send the money, as this last was my only reason for writing. I will trust to your friendship for not saying you have received a line from me on the subject. With assurances of high esteem, I remain, yours truly.

"MARY LINCOLN."

Dec. 30, 1865  
Jan. 11, 1866  
July 23, 1866  
Jan. 1, 1866

922.

## MRS. LINCOLN'S LETTER

NEW YORK, December 15.—Two letters believed to have been written by Mrs. Abraham Lincoln describing the straitened circumstances of the martyred President's family shortly after his death, have been produced here by R. Sherman Fowler, who said he found them recently in a secret panel of an old rosewood bookcase, which came to him as an heirloom from his grandfather, Benjamin B. Sherman, a founder of the Union League Club.

The letters, Fowler said, were written to his grandfather, who was president of the Central Union Trust Company, and at the time was in charge of a "dollar fund" which collected \$10,747 for Lincoln's widow.

The first letter, dated the day after Christmas, 1865, and signed Mary Lincoln, said, in part:

"We are homeless, and in return for the sacrifices my great and noble husband made, both in his life and in his death, the paltry first year's salary is offered to us, under the circumstances.

"Such injustice has been done us as calls the blush to any true, loyal heart. The sum is in reality only \$20,000, as the first month's salary was paid my husband, and I presume the tax on it will be deducted from it. The interest on it will be about \$1,500. I am humiliated when I think that we are destined to be forever homeless. I can write no more."

The letter began: "My dear sir: Although my son wrote you a letter on yesterday, I have concluded to write and thank you, most gratefully, for your kind interest in our deeply afflicted family. We have indeed lost our all; the idolized husband and father is no more with us, and, if possible, our adverse fate and the great injustice of a people who owed so much to my beloved husband does not contribute toward lessening our heavy trials. Sir Morton Peto gave a farewell dinner to his friends in New York in return for their polite attentions to him."

The second letter, dated January 18, 1866, is longer and tells of receiving from the congress the salary due Mr. Lincoln. In it Mrs. Lincoln also discusses a bill which a Mr. Moses held against her. The amount was not stated.

Mr. Fowler said he expected to turn the letters over to the New York Historical Society, of which he is a member, with a cash book of the "dollar fund," also found in the bookcase compartment.

WEIK



BENJAMIN SHERMAN

## LETTERS OF LINCOLN'S WIFE SHOW FAMILY POVERTY.

**J**UST before the holidays there were found in a secret compartment of an old desk in New York City, two letters written by Mrs. Abraham Lincoln shortly after the assassination of her husband. Both letters are addressed to Benjamin B. Sherman, grandfather of the present owner of the desk in which the letters were found. Mr. Sherman, a financier, was in charge of the "Dollar Fund," which collected \$10,747.77 for Mrs. Lincoln.

The first of the letters found is dated the day after Christmas, 1865, and was written in Chicago. It reads as follows: *IOWA HOMESTEAD*

My Dear Sir: Although my son wrote you a letter on yesterday, I have concluded to write and thank you, most gratefully, for your kind interest in our deeply afflicted family. We have, indeed, lost our all; the idolized husband and father is no more with us, and, if possible, our adverse fate and the great injustice of a people who owed so much to my beloved husband does not contribute toward lessening our heavy trials. Sir Morton Pelo gave a farewell dinner to his friends in New York in return for their polite attentions to him. We are homeless, and in return for the sacrifices my great and noble husband made, both in his life and in his death, the paltry first year's salary is offered to us, under the circumstances; such injustice has been done us as calls the blush to any true, loyal heart. The sum is in reality only \$20,000, as the first month's salary was paid my husband, and I presume the tax on it will be deducted from it. The interest on it will be about \$1,500. I am humiliated when I think that we are destined to be forever homeless. I can write no more. I remain,

Very Respectfully,

MARY LINCOLN.

P. S.—I omitted to say, my dear Mr. Sherman, mentioning to you what has been told me several times lately; persons apparently reliable saying that to their knowledge \$10,000 in money toward the dollar fund had been raised in Boston. I mention this so that you might write to Boston to ascertain the truth of this report. Knowing my anxiety to have a home where we could at least have some privacy and your good feeling for us in our distress will, I am sure, induce you to write about this to B. Excuse my troubling you in this matter, etc. I agree with R. (her son Robert) it is best not to advertise; if there is anything at such an hour as this, it will be forthcoming. M. L.

Sir Morton Pelo, referred to by Mrs. Lincoln, was an Englishman who had just visited America, and who had been much entertained. In the second letter, dated January 13, 1866, Mrs. Lincoln told of receiving \$20,025, the sum allowed by congress. In this letter she states that she had arranged to have the sum invested in government bonds.

The discovery of these old letters serves to throw some little additional light on the life of Mary Lincoln, about which history has not told as much as we might wish. Certain it is that the great Lincoln, like many other men who have served a people well and unselfishly, died a very poor man. It seems appropriate that these letters should have been found just at this time, almost on the anniversary of the date one of them was written. The famous Drinkwater play, "Abraham Lincoln," which has been on the American stage for some three years, and which has been witnessed by thousands, has done much to acquaint the public with the life of Lincoln. Some have felt, though, that perhaps the writer of this play has not dealt quite as sympathetically as he might have with Mrs. Lincoln. With the passing years the American people as a whole, whether north or south, have come to revere the memory of the martyred president, and it is safe to assume that the disparity in estimate which history has placed upon him and his helpmate will, as the years go by, grow less.

*Dec 11. 1865 1.41.1823*



All of Lincoln's biographers agree that he lacked a "money sense." He gave away money when he ought to have kept it, and had little power of acquisition. It is partly because of this quality in him that, after his assassination in 1865, his widow and children found themselves in financial difficulties. A "Dollar Fund" had to be started in their behalf, and Benjamin B. Sherman, who was in charge of the fund, turned over nearly \$11,000 to the family. Mr. Sherman's grandson, B. Sherman Fowler, a composer, has lately discovered, in a secret compartment of an old rosewood desk, two letters written by Mrs. Lincoln to Mr. Sherman during this period. These were published in the *New York Times*. Here is the first, dated Chicago, December 26, 1865:

"My Dear Sir: Although my son wrote you a letter yesterday, I have concluded to write and thank you, most gratefully, for your kind interest in our deeply afflicted family. We have, indeed, lost our all; the idolized husband and father is no more with us, and, if possible, our adverse fate and the great injustice of a people who owed so much to my beloved husband does not contribute toward lessening our heavy trials. Sir Morton Peto gave a farewell dinner to his friends in New York in return for their polite attentions to him. We are homeless, and in return for the sacrifices my great and noble husband made, both in his life and in his death, the paltry first year's salary is offered us; under the circumstances, such injustice has been done us as calls the blush to any true, loyal heart. The sum is in reality only \$20,000, as the first month's salary was paid my husband, and I presume the tax on it will be deducted from it. The interest of it will be about \$1,500. I am humiliated when I think that we are destined to be forever homeless. I can write no more. I remain, very respectfully,

"MARY LINCOLN.

"P. S.—I omitted to say, my dear Mr. Sherman, mentioning to you what has been told me several times lately; persons apparently reliable saying that to their knowledge \$10,000 in money toward the dollar fund had been raised in Boston. I mention this so that you might write to

Boston to ascertain the truth of this report. Knowing my anxiety to have a home where we could at least have some privacy and your good feeling for us in our distress will, I am sure, induce you to write about this to B. Excuse my troubling you in this matter, &c. I agree with R. (her son Robert) it is best not to advertise: if there is anything at such an hour as this, it will be forthcoming.

"M. L."

The second letter, written two weeks later, is more complicated; and four other letters, written early in 1866 to General Francis E. Spinner, then Treasurer of the United States, deal with the investment of \$22,000 allowed by Congress to Mrs. Lincoln.

*Current  
Opinion  
July 1923*

such crushing sorrow and trials were permitted us here. Why the protecting arm of those we loved TOO WELL was withdrawn from us, so that our dependence upon our Heavenly Father should be recognized and acknowledged. The return of the approaching holidays with my desolation upon me, so fresh and painful makes my heart sink within me. We can but remember each other, in our prayers, in such hours of suffering as these. I regret to say my dear Mrs. White, that I am unable at present to give you any satisfaction regarding the two letters your daughter addressed to my husband. Judge Davis has a large box of papers, letters, &c., in the vault of his bank, at Bloomington, Ill. He is now in Washington, for the winter. Should I ever gain access to these letters, I will hasten to return them to you. Knowing how pleasant it will be for you to possess them. Both my dear husband and myself admired the talent they evinced. I hope you will often write me. My days are passed in sadness, when I sometimes fear that even our gracious Father has forsaken me. Pray for me. I remain,

Most truly yours,

Mary Lincoln."

FARNHAM, CARLOS E.

*Feb. 12 - 1907*  
**MRS. LINCOLN LIKED  
THE NAMES OF ELLA  
AND ALICE FOR GIRLS**

*Christina Science Monitor*  
PROVIDENCE, R. I., Feb. 12 (A)—  
Mrs. Abraham Lincoln liked Ella and Alice for girls' names, she wrote in a letter to Carlos E. Farnham of Tunbridge, Vt., on Oct. 16, 1861, it was revealed today in a hitherto unpublished letter of hers.

Carlos Farnham became the father of twin girls on the date of Lincoln's first inaugural, March 4, 1861. Frederick Farnham, his brother, took it upon himself to write to the first lady in Washington asking her to suggest a name for the other twin, Mary having been decided upon in honor of herself.

She replied that she liked Ella or Alice for names, but the stirring war days of '61 delayed her answer about seven months and the twins had already been christened Minnie and Mary.

The letter is owned by Miss Alice B. Farnham of this city, daughter of Frederick Farnham.





1928

The years of suffering which Mrs. Abraham Lincoln endured after the assassination of the Civil War President, her gradual mental breakdown and the distress of her son, the late Robert Todd Lincoln, at having to place her in a sanitarium, are told in letters by members of the Lincoln family included in a new biography of Mrs. Lincoln, "Mary, Wife of Lincoln," by her niece, Kate Helm, which is being published serially in McCall's Magazine.

The biography includes also a letter of condolence hitherto unpublished, as far as is known, from Queen Victoria to Mrs. Lincoln. The letter is apparently in Queen Victoria's own handwriting, on paper deeply bordered with black.

"Osborne.

"April 29, 1865.

"Dear Madam:

"Though a stranger to you I cannot remain silent when so terrible a calamity has fallen upon you and your country, and must personally express my deep and heartfelt sympathy with you under the shocking circumstances of your present dreadful misfortune.

"No one can better appreciate than I can, who am myself utterly broken-hearted by the loss of my own beloved husband, who was the light of my life—my stay, my all—what your sufferings must be, and I earnestly pray that you may be supported by Him to whom alone the sorely stricken can look for comfort, in this hour of heavy affliction.

"With renewed expressions of true sympathy, I remain, dear madam,

"Your sincere friend,

"VICTORIA."

#### Mrs. Lincoln Tells of Debts.

A letter from Mrs. Lincoln to Representative Orne describes her financial difficulties:

"I told you what my eldest son and I have always kept to ourselves, that as soon as our senses could be regained I had every Washington and every other indebtedness sent to me and out of every dollar I could command I paid to the utmost farthing. In some cases known to the Administration, but in very few, it was all done by ourselves—my son and myself—out of our money, so it should be said President Lincoln was not in debt. This is one of the causes why I am so straightened now, for living as we were compelled to, my husband not being a rich man, and we had to pay enormous prices for everything those war times."

Of Mrs. Lincoln's financial troubles, her niece says:

"There was a long delay in the settlement of Mr. Lincoln's estate, and by 1867 the \$22,000 allotted her by Congress for the President's unfinished term had grown alarmingly less. The bills for unsettled accounts that Mary Lincoln had asked the merchants to send her had come all too promptly and she was overwhelmed at their magnitude; mortified and terror-stricken, too, at her inability to settle her indebtedness, she was dazed and did not know where to turn for help. For at this time Mary was a singularly lonely woman. Due to her mental trouble, which had been daily increasing ever since her husband's death, her former good judgment had become impaired. Her sisters and other relatives who voiced to Mary their indignant protests, entreating her to curb her excitement and eccentricity, only incurred her anger and had become estranged from her.

"They did not understand until later the tragic cause, which finally

several physicians and a jury of twelve men pronounced insanity. These terrible debts were making her head ache. She felt as if red hot needles were being driven through her brain. Honesty was ingrained in Mary's code of life and these merchants must not suffer loss through her folly. She must sell everything! It would be humiliating! In her extremity and weakness she reverted to the impulse of her childhood, which had been to seek the love and help she had unfaithfully found in her black mammy who had shielded her from many a deserved scolding. In the faithful, sympathetic colored woman Elizabeth Keckley, formerly a slave in a good old Virginia family, Mary saw the only available substitute, and to her she turned blindly for sympathy and advice—with most disastrous result. Mary, with the aid of Elizabeth Keckley, attempted to dispose of laces, frocks, everything; it was a dismal failure and brought on her a perfect avalanche of criticism and insult."

#### Robert Anxious About His Mother.

The anxiety of her son Robert is shown in a letter he wrote on Oct. 16, 1867, to Mary Harlan, whom later he married:

"I have so much to say about what I wrote to you of ten days ago that I hardly know where or how to begin. I was merely desperate, I know. I suppose you have seen some of the paper, so there is no need of detailing what I was told they were full of. I did not read them. The simple truth, which I cannot tell to any one not personally interested, is that my mother is on one subject not mentally responsible. I have suspected this for some time from various indications and now have no doubt of it. I have taken the advice of one or two of my friends in whom I trust most and they tell me I can do nothing. It is terribly irksome to sit still under all that has happened and say nothing, but it has to be done.

"The greatest misery of all is the fear of what may happen in the future. This is of course not to be foreseen, and is what troubles me most. I have no doubt that a great many good and amiable people wonder why I do not take charge of her affairs and keep them straight, but it is very hard to deal with one who is sane on all subjects but one. You could hardly believe it possible, but my mother protests to me that she is in actual want, and nothing I can do or say will convince her to the contrary. Do you see that I am likely to have a good deal of trouble in the future, do what I can to prevent it?"

Letters which Mrs. Lincoln wrote from Europe in 1869 and 1870 to her daughter-in-law, the wife of Robert Todd Lincoln, testify to the melancholy which she was unable to throw off. There are many such references as:

"I feel miserably blue today, so please excuse this scrawl"; "certainly ill luck presided at my birth—certainly within the last few years it has been a faithful attendant"; "it would have been utterly impossible for me with my present health and sad state of mind to have taken the

least interest in Italian cities this Winter"; oh, that I could be with you, for with the lonely life imposed upon myself, separation from those I love so much, at this trying, heart-rending time is excruciating pain."

#### Tells of Her Anguish.

Again her agony is evidenced in a letter to Mrs. Orne:

"If my darling husband had lived out his four years he promised me we should live our remaining years in a home we both should have enjoyed. \* \* \* Bowed down and broken-hearted in my terrible bereavement, my thoughts this last sad Summer

have often turned to you. I have remembered with most grateful emotions your tender sympathy in the first days of my overwhelming anguish. Time does not reconcile me to the loss of the most devoted and loving husband a sadly afflicted woman ever possessed. How dearly I long, my kind friend, to lay my aching head and sorrowing heart by the side of this dearly beloved one. When the summons comes for my departure I will gladly welcome it, for there the weary are at rest. \* \* \*

Regarding the death of Tad, Mrs. Abraham Lincoln's young son, Robert Todd Lincoln wrote his wife:

"We came back from Springfield this morning all well. I will not attempt to tell you all that has happened in the last few days. For I am a good deal used up. Last Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday morning Tad appeared a great deal better. He was stronger and looking well and the water was reduced a good deal in his chest. Thursday was very close and oppressive, and it pulled him back very much. Friday afternoon he seemed to rally again and at eleven P. M. was sleeping nicely with prospects of having a good night, so I left him with mother and his two nurses and went to the house. I was aroused at half past four and went to the hotel and saw at once that he was falling fast. He was in great distress and laboring for breath and ease, but I do not think he was in acute pain. He lingered on so until between half past seven and eight, when he suddenly threw himself forward on his bed and was gone. Poor mother was almost distracted, but Mrs. — devoted herself to her and we took her up to the house. During the day Mrs. —, Mrs. Farlin and Mrs. Wm. H. Brown and your father came. We had services in the house in the afternoon and at night I went down to Springfield—with a car full of friends. Mother was utterly exhausted and could not go, but Mrs. Dr. Brown stayed with her until I got back. I have a nurse with her and she is doing very well—better than I expected. I hope and expect that in a few days I will get her to go down to Springfield to my Aunt Mrs. Edwards, and if so I will think I have done a good deal."

#### Mrs. Lincoln in Sanitarium.

Four years later, in May, 1875, Robert Lincoln was compelled to have his mother placed in a sanitarium. This letter from him to Mrs. J. H. Orne indicates his distress:

"Your letter, written immediately after you received the news of the proceedings which I was unhappily compelled to take, should have received an earlier reply, and I must beg you to excuse my apparent neglect. If you have since then seen any detailed account of the occurrences which forced me to place my mother under care. I think—indeed, know—you could not but have approved my action. Six physicians in council informed me that by longer delay I was making morally responsible for some very probable tragedy, which might occur at any moment. Some of my Eastern friends have criticized the public proceedings in court, which seemed to them unnecessary. Against this there was no help, for we have a statute in this State which imposes a very heavy penalty on any one depriving an insane person of his liberty without the verdict of a jury. My mother is, I think, under as good care and as happily situated as is possible under the circumstances. She is in the private part of the house of Dr. Patterson, and her associates are the members of his family only. With them she walks and drives wherever she likes and takes her meals with them or in her own room, as she chooses, and she tells me she likes them all very much.

MEK



ine expression or surprise at my action which was telegraphed East, and which doubtless you saw, was the first and last expression of the kind she has uttered, and we are on the best of terms. Indeed, my consolation in this sad affair is in thinking that she herself is happier in every way, in her freedom from care and excitement, than she has been in ten years. So far as I can see, she does not realize her situation at all. It is, of course, my care that she should have everything for her comfort and pleasure that can be obtained. I can tell you nothing as to the probability of her restoration. It must be the work of some time, if it occurs. Her physician, who is of high repute, is not yet able to give an opinion. The responsibility that has been and is now on me is one that I would gladly share if it was possible to do so, but, being alone as I am, I can only do my duty as it is given me to see it. Trusting that I am guided for the best."

#### Declared Sane Within Year.

At the end of eleven months Mary Lincoln was declared sane, her niece continues. Her sister, Elizabeth (Mrs. Edwards), went to the sanitarium at Batavia and accompanied by her sister and a trained nurse Mary went back to Springfield. She was depressed and unhappy. "I cannot endure to meet my former friends, Lizzie," she said bitterly, "they will never cease to regard me as a lunatic, I feel it in their soothing manner. If I should say the moon is made of green cheese, they would heartily and smilingly agree with me. I love you, but I cannot stay. I would be much less unhappy in the midst of strangers."

Mrs. Edwards, knowing that her sister was far from normal, felt very apprehensive to see her leave, but she put no obstacle in her way; indeed, she came to think that a complete change might be beneficial to her, mentally and physically. So Mary Lincoln, restless, hoping to find forgetfulness in travel abroad, went to France, to Germany, to Italy. At Pau, France, in December, 1879, she fell from a stepladder while hanging a small picture over her mantelpiece and seriously injured her spine. Fearing now that she might die among strangers, in October, 1880, she sailed for America. Her nephew met her in New York and escorted her back to Springfield to the home of her sister, Mrs. Edwards. There, shrinking and sensitive, seeing no one—even when she was persuaded to take a drive the carriage curtains must be drawn—she spent the remainder of her broken, clouded life in the home filled with memories of her sparkling, happy girlhood, her rose-colored dreams of love and life. Prostrated by illness, the light of life and joy blotted out of her, she lingered in a purple twilight of grief until merciful death claimed her—the death she prayed for. "Ah, my dear friend," she wrote, "you will rejoice when you know that I have gone to my husband and children." The end of her suffering came July 16, 1882.

Her friends paid her silent tribute in the same room which had witnessed her light-hearted gayety and her marriage to the man of her choice, by whose side they reverently laid her. And could she have been conscious, with her slow, irradiating smile she would have said, "At last I am content—happy."

Confidential

Springfield, Ill., Dec. 21, 1860  
Hon. A. G. Curtin  
My dear Sir

Yours of the 14<sup>th</sup> was  
received last night. I am much  
obliged by your kindness in asking  
my views in advance of preparing  
your inaugural. I think of nothing  
proper for me to suggest except a  
word about this secession and dis-  
union movement. On that subject, I  
think you would do well to express,  
without passion, threat, or appearance  
of boasting, but nevertheless, with  
firmness, the purpose of yourself and  
your state to maintain the Union at  
all hazards. Also, if you can, procure  
the Legislature to pass resolutions to  
that effect. I shall be very glad to  
see your friend, the Attorney General, this is to be,  
but I think his recent sailing makes a trip  
impracticable, to confer with me on this subject particularly.  
Yours very truly A. Lincoln

A Letter to Governor Curtin.

Washington, May 24, 1848

My dear wife,

Enclosed is the draft as I promised  
you in my letter of Sunday. It is drawn in favor  
of your father, and I doubt not, he will give  
you the money for it at once. I wrote this letter  
in the postoffice, surrounded by men and noise,  
which, together with the fact that there is  
nothing new, makes me write so short a  
letter

Affectionately  
A. Lincoln

A Note to His Wife.

Received, May 11, 1855, of Benjamin H. Kelley, Jr.  
fifty dollars in full balance of all fees, up  
to this date, and also one dollar and a quarter, to be  
applied on the next fee.

A. Lincoln

A Receipt to a Client.



# WAYS OF LINCOLN NEWLY REVEALED

Wife's Letters Throw Light on  
His Psychology

SHE TOLD OF LAST DAY

Were Written to Artist Who  
Painted Cabinet Group

New information on the character and psychology of Abraham Lincoln has been revealed through the discovery of the letters of Mary Todd Lincoln to Frank Carpenter, an artist who spent six months or more in the White House painting a portrait of President Lincoln and the Cabinet, which are published in the February issue of the *Cosmopolitan*.

The letters are the property of Paul Coster jr., who inherited them from his uncle, the late Robert Coster.

When they were written, Mrs. Lincoln still was suffering profoundly from the shock of her husband's assassination. Carpenter, early in the fall of 1865, wrote asking her assistance in the making of a black and white painting of the Lincoln family, the family group of 1861, when Willie and the President still were alive. Carpenter proposed to build the group from individual photographs, and asked her advice and help.

In replying from Chicago, where she had gone after leaving the White House, she wrote passionately of the last day with the President.

Told Of His Cheerfulness

"How I wish you could have seen my dear husband the last few weeks of his life," the letter said. "Having a realizing sense that the unnatural rebellion was near to a close and being most of the time away from W. where he had endured such conflicts of mind within the past four years, feeling so encouraged, he freely gave vent to his cheerfulness. Down the Potomac he was almost boyish of his mirth and reminded me of his original nature, what I had always remembered of him in our own home—free from care, surrounded by those he loved so well and by whom he was so idolized.

"The Friday I never saw him so supremely cheerful—his manner was even playful. At 3 o'clock in the afternoon he drove out with me in the open carriage. In starting, I asked him if anyone should accompany us, he immediately replied, 'No—I prefer to ride by ourselves to-day.'

Thought War Was Near Close

"During the drive, he was so gay that I said to him laughingly, 'Dear husband, you almost startle me by your great cheerfulness.' He replied, 'And well I may feel so, Mary, I consider this day the war has come to a close,' and then added, 'We must both be more cheerful in the future—be-

tween the war and the loss of our darling Willie—we both have been very miserable.'

"Every word then uttered is deeply engraven on my poor broken heart. In the evening his mind was fixed upon having some relaxation and bent on the theatre. Yet I firmly believe that if he had remained at the W. H. on that night of darkness, when the fiends prevailed he would have been cut to pieces. Those fiends had too long contemplated this inhuman murder to have allowed him to escape."

A second letter to the artist, written after he had published a series of his White House experiences in the *New York Independent* and had used parts of Mary Lincoln's letter, reveals her version of the duel between Lincoln and Editor Shields.

The Lincoln coterie in Springfield included Shields, who is described in the letter as a "subject of mirth," his "impulsiveness and drolleries" being irresistible.

How Duel Was Averted

"On one occasion," the letter continued, "he made himself so conspicuous that I committed his follies to rhyme and some person looking over the silly verses—carried them off and had them published in the daily paper of the place. The sarcastic allusions irritated Shields and he demanded the Author of the Editor, the latter requesting a few days for reflection repaired to Mr. Lincoln, who having heard of it through me immediately told the Editor that 'he would be responsible.'

"A few days after this, Mr. L.—almost forgetting the circumstances went off some two hundred miles to court, and to make a foolish story very short, was followed by Shields, demanding satisfaction. Mr. L.—accepted, scarcely knowing what he was doing, they repaired to St. Louis, to 'Bloody Island' with their 'long swords,' the choice of weapons being left to Mr. L.—the challenged party. General Hardin, my cousin, stepped in their midst and effected a reconciliation. No doubt, much to their satisfaction."\*\*\*

NEW YORK CITY WORLD  
JANUARY 10, 1930

FRANK CARPENTER

## Cause of Lincoln's Duel Revealed in Wife's Letter

REMARKABLE, in view of the exhaustive search carried on by biographers and historians for original Abraham Lincoln material, are two hitherto unpublished letters by Mary Todd Lincoln appearing in the current issue of the *Cosmopolitan Magazine*.

Here is undoubtedly the true story of the duel in which Abraham Lincoln once engaged. Mrs. Lincoln, writing to Frank Carpenter, New York artist, who painted the best known of the Lincoln portraits, said:

"You may have heard of the little coterie we had in Springfield, years since.

"Generals Hardin, Baker, Douglas, Trumbull, Shields and my great and glorious husband, always a 'world above them

all,' these men constituted our society.

"Shields was always a subject of mirth. On one occasion he made himself so conspicuous that I committed his follies to rhyme, and some person, looking over the silly verses, carried them off and had them published in the daily paper of the place.

"The sarcastic allusions irritated Shields, and he demanded the author of the editor. A few days after this Mr. L.— was followed by Shields, demanding satisfaction.

"Mr. L.— accepted. They repaired to St. Louis, to 'Bloody Island,' with their 'long swords.' General Hardin, my cousin, stepped in their midst and effected a reconciliation. No doubt much to their satisfaction."





# True Character of Much Maligned Mary Todd Lincoln Seen in Letters

Nov. 10-'30- Kas. City Journal



Two letters from Mary Todd Lincoln (shown above) to an artist friend, give a wholly new impression of the martyred president's wife.

## Widow's Letters, Written to Friend of Family Shortly After Assassination, Reveal Little Known Feeling.

TWO letters from Mrs. Mary Todd Lincoln, written to F. B. Carpenter, an artist friend of the family, after the assassination of her husband, President Lincoln, appear in the current issue of Cosmopolitan in an article by Honore Willsie Morrow, entitled, "Lincoln's Last Day Described in Letters of His Wife."

"Astonishing letters from any point of view," they are described by the author, who says: "It is as if a voice from beyond the grave had spoken. It is as if that woman so long maligned, so long neglected, had at last found a medium for giving the lie to the slanderous tongues of many years."

The letters were obtained for publication from Paul Coster, jr., of New York, who inherited them from his uncle, Robert Coster. The latter obtained them from Carpenter, the artist, who early in 1864 was installed in the White House and remained there for six months while he painted the picture now familiar to every school child.

Carpenter is described as a gentle soul who came to adore Lincoln.

### Shatters Old Conception.

"For nearly fifty years," the author states, "the name of Mary Lincoln has been shrouded in contumely. She has been written into history as a coarse, ill educated scold, a curse to her husband and her children. To the world at large she has been either a nonentity or a crazy fool. And then through the discovery of letters such as these she suddenly, after a half-century, reveals herself to us. Not as Xanthippe, not as a clod, but as a lovable, cultured, suffering human soul. And the world's conception of Lincoln's wife is shattered . . ."

"How I wish," the first letter to Carpenter states, "you could have seen my dear husband the last three weeks of his life. Having a realizing sense the unnatural rebellion was near its close, and being most of the time away from W., where he had endured such conflicts of mind, within the last four years, feeling so encouraged he freely gave vent to his cheerfulness. Down the Potomac he was almost boyish in his mirth and reminded me of his original nature, what I had always remembered of him in our own home—free from care, suprounded by those he loved so well and by whom he was idolized."

### Is Unusually Cheerful.

"The Friday I never saw him so supremely cheerful—his manner was even playful—at 3 o'clock in the afternoon he drove out with me in the open carriage, in starting I asked him if anyone should accompany us, he immediately replied—'No, I prefer to ride by ourselves today.' During the drive he was so gay that I said to him, laughingly, 'Dear husband, you almost startle me by your great cheerfulness.' He replied, 'And well may I feel so, Mary, I consider this day the war has come to a close'—and then added, 'We must both be more cheerful in the future—between the war and the loss of our darling Willie—we have both been very miserable.' Every word then uttered is deeply engraven on my poor broken heart. In the evening his mind was fixed upon having some relaxation and bent on the theater—Yet I firmly believe if he had remained at the W. H. on that night of darkness when the fiends prevailed he would have been horribly cut to pieces—Those fiends had too long contemplated this inhuman murder to have allowed him to escape. . . ."

### Writes Again Later.

The first letter, written November 15, 1865, while Mary Todd Lincoln and her children were seeking surcease from their sorrow in a Chicago apartment, was followed December 8, by the second.

In this, in which she refers to Lincoln's duel with Editor Shields, she wrote:

"You may have heard of the little Coterie we had in Springfield, years since, who have all since in a greater or less degree, distinguished themselves in the political world. General Hardin, Baker, Douglas, Trumbull, Shields and my great and glorious husband, always a 'world above them all,' these men constituted our society."

"Shields was always a subject of mirth, his impulsiveness and drolleries were irresistible. On one occasion he made himself so conspicuous that I committed his follies to rhyme and some person, looking o



the silly verses—carried them and had them published in the ally paper of the place. The satiric allusions irritated Shields and he demanded the author of the editor, the latter requesting a few days for reflection, repaired to Mr. Lincoln, who having heard of it through me, immediately told the editor "he would be responsible."

#### Lincoln Forgets Incident.

"A few days after this Mr. L—almost forgetting the circumstance, went off some 200 miles to court, and to make a foolish story very short, was followed by Shields demanding satisfaction. Mr. L—accepted, scarcely knowing what he was doing. They repaired to St. Louis to "Bloody Island" with their long swords, the choice of weapons being left to Mr. L—the challenged party . . .

"General Hardin, my cousin, stepped in their midst and effected a reconciliation. No doubt, much to their satisfaction. This affair always annoyed my husband's peaceful nerves—and as it occurred six months before we were married, he said he felt he could do no less than be my champion. However, if the same cause had transpired a year and a half before, it would doubtless have been the same result, as our mutual relations were then the same.

#### Goes to Drawing Room.

"Last February an officer of our army presented himself in the drawing room of the W. H. on one of those fortunate and especial occasions when the president was able to respond to my urgent invitation to accompany me to the drawing room if "only for an hour."

"This general in the course of conversation said, playfully, to my husband, 'Mr. President, is it true as I have heard, you once went out to fight a duel and all for the sake of the lady at your side?'

"Mr. Lincoln with a flushed face replied, 'I do not deny it, but if you desire my friendship you will not mention it again.'

"Immediately after the occurrence, months before we were married, we mutually agreed on no occasion to allude to it and gradually it ceased to be mentioned."

In this same letter Mary Todd Lincoln invited Mr. and Mrs. Carpenter to visit her in Chicago, promising, "I can tell you many things of my dearly beloved husband that I have not sufficient time or calmness to commit to paper."

The author of the Cosmopolitan article, however, states:

"The Carpenters, so far as we know, never visited Mary in Chicago and so we lost for all time those 'many things,' those precious things, she would have committed to their keeping."

## Mrs. Lincoln's Letters.

F. B. CARPENTER

The Cosmopolitan is fortunate in being able to reproduce two of the letters written by Mrs. Mary Todd Lincoln, following the death of the president, to F. P. Carpenter, who painted her portrait. But there is nothing about the letters to justify the conclusion that she was an amiable, refined woman of fine taste and gentle ways.

The letters are in obvious error as to some things. The scene of the proposed Shields-Lincoln duel was not near St. Louis but across from Alton. Nor was the challenge on account of some idle verse which somebody got into the Sangamon Journal. One letter and one poem, written by Mary Todd and a friend, were signed by the same pseudonym Lincoln had used in two previous letters, far different in style and substance from the ones that made Shields issue the challenge, and the ladies and the wife of the editor of the Journal were responsible for their publication.

The reproduction of the portrait itself sufficiently illuminates Mrs. Lincoln's taste and temper. Any student of it is prepared to accept the story of the scene caused by Mrs. Lincoln when her husband showed ordinary courtesy to his hostess, Mrs. U. S. Grant. It also makes clear why Lincoln, of all lawyers on the circuit, stayed in Bloomington instead of spending Sundays at home.

Mrs. Lincoln was snobbish, ill-tempered and domineering. Lincoln never invited friends to his house for dinner, after she threw a beefsteak in his face when he brought an out-of-town lawyer home with him once. She locked the doors on him election night in November, 1860, because he stayed out late, awaiting returns. It is probably true that he was a trial to her, with his disregard of society, which she loved, but the record is too replete with unmistakable proofs of her strange behavior to accept the myth members of her family have sedulously cultivated for over sixty years.

A leading alienist, after studying the facts, concluded she was insane, a verdict that justified the probate court of Illinois in once committing her to an asylum, after her husband's death.

Kansas City, Mo. Journal

JAN. 14, 1860

312

MR. WAKEMAN

CONSOLIDATED  
BUREAUS  
CHICAGO, U.S.A.  
NORTHWEST DIVISION  
CHICAGO, ILL.

SE. F. Crump, Pioneer Press  
SUNDAY, JANUARY 19, 1930

## Intimate Letter Written in 1865 by Mrs. Abraham Lincoln Made Public

Washington, Jan. 18.—An intimate letter written by Mrs. Abraham Lincoln in March, 1865 in which she related diverting the President's mind by attendance at the opera has been made public here for the first time.

Written to a friend, Mr. Wakeman, who is understood to have been collector of the Port of New York, the letter is bordered heavily in black, presumably in memory of Willie Lincoln, the son who died in the White House. While the year is not given in the letter, the events it discusses led students to fix the time of its writing as the last year of the war, only a short time before Lincoln's assassination.

The letter is the property of Mrs. Robert F. Crump of Washington who was given it twenty years ago by the son of the man to whom it was addressed. She has kept it private because of the opposition of

Robert Todd Lincoln to publication of his parents' letters.

"We are having charming weather and I am most happy to say that my blessed husband's health has much improved," wrote Mrs. Lincoln. "We went to the opera on Saturday eve; Mr. Sumner (presumably Senator Charles Sumner) accompanied us and we had a very gay little time. Mr. L., when he throws off his heavy manner, as he often does, can make himself very, very agreeable. Last evening he again joined our little coterie and tomorrow eve we go again to hear 'Robin Adair' sung in 'La Dame Blanche,' by Habelman."

Mrs. Lincoln referred also to the offer of an appointment to a "Mr. B." who had refused and which "the papers appear to think is one of Mr. L.'s 'last jokes'."

"Lest he might consider that it was intended as a jest," she wrote, "please do not fail to express my regrets to him. You will understand—even give W. to understand that I regret that Mr. B. did not accept."



MR. WAKEMAN

# LETTER WRITTEN BY MRS. LINCOLN IS MADE PUBLIC

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CHICAGO ILL TRIBUNE  
SUNDAY, JANUARY 19, 1930.

917 James  
Jan 20, 1930  
RADIO

## WIFE IN LETTER TOLD OF LINCOLN'S GAY MOOD

*Missive Written Shortly Before  
Assassination Describing Evening  
at Opera Is Revealed.*

WASHINGTON, Jan. 19 (P).—An intimate letter written by Mrs. Abraham Lincoln in March, 1865, in which she related how the President "threw off his heavy manner" and enjoyed a "gay time" in attendance at the opera has been made public here for the first time.

Written to a friend, Mr. Wakeman, who is understood to have been Collector of the Port of New York, the letter is bordered heavily in black, presumably in memory of Willie Lincoln, the son who died in the White House. While the year is not given in the letter, the events it discusses led students to fix the time of its writing as the last year of the war, only a short time before Lincoln's assassination.

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## GET MRS. LINCOLN'S NOTE

*Inquirer* 2/6/1930  
Dames of the Loyal Legion Receive  
Letter of Civil War President's Wife

An original letter written by Mary Tod Lincoln, wife of the martyred President, in which she sought to have a young woman placed in a position in a governmental department, was presented to the Dames of the Loyal Legion by Lucy W. Kurtz, of Reading, at a luncheon in the Benjamin Franklin Hotel yesterday. Accompanying the letter was a social visiting card bearing the autograph of Abraham Lincoln.

The luncheon, which was presided over by Mrs. Percy Y. Schelling, State president of the organization, was attended by several hundred persons and addresses were made by Dr. Frederick A. Godcharles, State librarian, of Harrisburg, and Allen Corson, engineer of the Fairmount Park Commission.

Dr. Godcharles' topic was "Pennsylvania in History," in which he especially dwelt upon the services rendered by Pennsylvanians in all of the American wars.

Mr. Corson praised the work being carried on by the group in the field of tree conservation, citing the fact that the Dames of the Loyal Legion were doing a concrete work was evident by their establishment of the World War Memorial Grove in Fairmount Park as well as the Civil War Memorial trees which, adjoin the site of Grant's Cabin.

The letter of Mrs. Lincoln, addressed to a "Mr. Harrington" and written in the clear, bold hand, though the ink now shows evidence of age, beseeches that if possible a place be given to a "Miss Adeline Ramsay, a worthy subject," who desired to be employed in "cutting notes."

*Philadelphia*



# REVEALS '62 LETTER FROM MRS. LINCOLN

May 5, 1862

## Lakewood Woman Is Possessor; Cooper to Address Veterans Tonight.

Revelation yesterday of the existence of a hitherto unpublished letter written by Mary Todd Lincoln to a Cleveland man, husband of a friend who had died, added unusual interest to the preparations for celebration in the city today of the 121st anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's birth. The celebration will include a speech by Gov. Myers Y. Cooper before members of veterans' associations.

Public school pupils will pay tribute to the great emancipator in class room orations. All Cleveland Clearing House Association banks and the Cleveland Stock Exchange will be closed for the day. City Hall will

close in the afternoon, and both county court houses will be closed. The customs office of the Federal Building will also take a holiday.

The recurrence of Lincoln's birthday brought floods of reminiscent letters to newspaper offices. One of the most unusual was that of Lee R. Lucas, 1480 Cordova Avenue, Lakewood, Civil War veteran, who as a boy of 16 was taken by his father to hear the famous Lincoln-Douglas debate at Bloomington, Ill.—which lost Lincoln a senatorship but won him the presidency.

The newly revealed letter by Mrs. Lincoln was written on May 5, 1862.

(Continued on Page 5, Column 3)

## Lakewood Woman Owns Note; Civil War Vet Tells of Douglas Debate.

(Continued From First Page)

to Charles Reeves of Cleveland. Mrs. Hester Reeves, his wife, who had died several weeks before, soon after the death of the president's second son, William, had once tutored the Lincoln children in Springfield, Ill.

The letter is in the possession of Miss Marie Wass, 11311 Clifton Boulevard N. W., a granddaughter of Mrs. Reeves. Miss Wass also possesses a picture of Willie Lincoln, inclosed with the letter by his mother.

The signature of the president, "A. Lincoln," appears in the upper right corner of the envelope, in place of a stamp. In the lower left corner are the initials "M. L."

The following is a verbatim copy of the letter:

"The sad intelligence of the death of your most excellent wife had reached me two or three weeks before I received your letter, and I have been so bowed down and broken-hearted myself, or I should have written you to express my deep sorrow in your heavy bereavement. Where Mrs. Reeves was known there her goodness and influence was ever felt. She was one of the pure-hearted beings of this world—who are frequently first removed. The Hereafter will explain many things that are now dark and mysterious. Our own afflictions are so overwhelming, my husband and myself are so crushed and sorrowful, that we can well sympathize with those who mourn; our hearts go out towards those who weep.

"A Father's Hand."

"We know in our trials, that the heavy stroke came from a father's hand, yet it is so difficult, while our hearts are bleeding, to be submissive. There was no lovelier boy than ours, and none more precious or more dearly loved, yet he has been called away

and we are left to our desolation and agony. Our beloved Willie dearly loved your wife and I know she was equally as much attached to him, and I fully know and believe that they are this day together rejoicing in the presence of their Saviour. I have shed many tears over the last writing of your sainted wife, in memory of our darling boy. If it were not for the hope, that by serving God rightly here we may be enabled to meet them again—what would life be? As it is, there are days when I feel that I cannot struggle on, much longer.

"Just a short time before his illness I had intended sending Mrs. Reeves his photograph which did not do him justice. Please receive them from me. If you should ever come to W. I will show you a painting of him, very much like him and far handsomer than these.

"Please excuse this letter, written in such haste and almost blotted by my tears. When we weep here we can only remember that, 'there all tears are wiped away from their eyes.' Sorrow never enters there. Always your sincere friend, MARY LINCOLN."

Gov. Cooper will arrive at 4:40 p. m. today at Union Station. The train will be met by members of the G. A. R., Spanish War Veterans, Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion and Cleveland Grays, who will escort the governor to Hotel Statler.

Presidents of the women's auxiliaries of the organization will act as hostesses. Women members, dressed in white, will form an escort for the governor and will stand behind him at the banquet at 7 o'clock.

Gov. Cooper will be welcomed for the organizations by William G. Fligle, president of the Sons and Daughters of the Union Veterans of the Civil War, and for the city by Mayor John D. Marshall. J. Harry Breen of the American Legion will sing. Comrade W. A. Talbot, G. A. R., will read Lincoln's Gettysburg Address.

Among those on the reception committee which will greet Gov. Cooper are Dr. C. T. Elder, president of the Spanish War Veterans; John G. Price and Col. Carmi A. Thompson, on behalf of that group; Councilman William J. Lodrick and President C. E. Bills of the Veterans of Foreign Wars; City Law Director Harold H. Burton, J. M. Saunders, chairman and Maj. J. A. Stauffer for the American Legion.

More than 1,000 persons are expected to attend the banquet.



CONGRESS

Philadelphia, Wednesday Morning, February 12, 1930 *Public Ledger*

## Once Overs

Registered U. S. Patent Office

By C. D. Batchelor

# LINCOLN'S WIDOW WAS FORCED TO ASK CONGRESS FOR PENSION. LETTER SHOWS

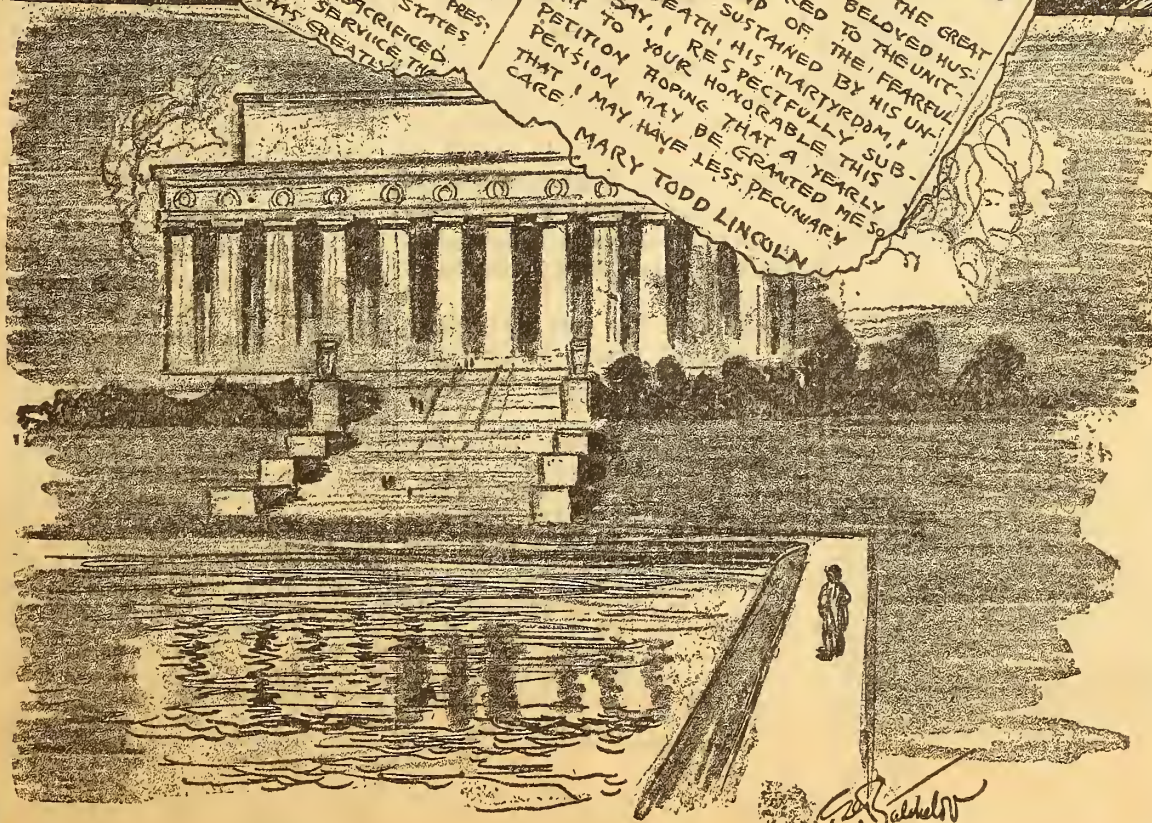
THE LETTER, FOLLOWS:

THE HONORABLE FRANKFORT, KY.  
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE  
OF REPRESENTATIVES.  
SIR— I HERE WITH MOST RESPECT-  
FULLY, PRESENT TO THE HONOR-  
ABLE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
AN APPLICATION FOR A PENSION.

I AM A WIDOW OF A PRES-  
IDENT OF THE UNITED STATES  
WHOSE LIFE WAS SACRIFICED  
IN HIS COUNTRY'S SERVICE THE  
SAD CALAMITY HIS GREAT

IN CONSIDERATION OF THE GREAT  
SERVICES MY DEARLY BELOVED HUS-  
BAND HAS RENDERED TO THE UNIT-  
ED STATES AND OF THE FEARFUL  
LOSS I HAVE AND OF THE UN-  
TIMELY DEATH, HIS MARTYRDOM, I  
MAY SAY, I RESPECTFULLY SUB-  
MIT TO YOUR HONORABLE SUB-  
PETITION HOPING THAT A YEARLY  
PENSION MAY BE GRANTED ME SO  
THAT I MAY HAVE LESS PECUNIARY  
CARE.

MARY TODD LINCOLN



Lincoln Memorial



## CONGRESS

# LETTER REVEALS LINCOLN'S WIDOW ASKED FOR PENSION

Congress Did Not Grant  
Her \$5,000 Until in  
Dire Need

A letter recently brought to light and now in the possession of William Tyler Page, clerk of the house of representatives, reveals that Mary Todd Lincoln, widow of Abraham Lincoln, did not receive a pension from congress until she was in straitened circumstances and was forced to ask for it. The letter, written on note paper in a fine but legible script, reads as follows:

"Frankfort, Germany.

"The Honorable Speaker of the House of Representatives.

"Sir—I herewith most respectfully present to the Honorable House of Representatives an application for a pension.

"I am a widow of a president of the United States, whose life was sacrificed in his country's service. That sad calamity has very greatly impaired my health, and by the advice of my physician I have come over to Germany to try mineral waters and during the winter to go to Italy.

"But my financial means do not permit me to take advantage of the

urgent advice given me, nor can I live in a style becoming the widow of the Chief Magistrate of a great nation, although I live as economically as I can.

"In consideration of the great services my dearly beloved husband has rendered to the United States and of the fearful loss I have sustained by his untimely death, his martyrdom, I may say, I respectfully submit to your honorable body this petition, hoping that a yearly pension may be granted me so that I may have less pecuniary care."

Congress granted her a yearly allowance of \$5,000, which was not the first nor last time that congress granted pensions to widows of former presidents.

Records in possession of Mr. Page reveal that upon the death of George Washington, his wife Martha did not fare so well—being granted only the "franking privilege," that is, free use of the mails.

At the present time four widows of former presidents enjoy this privilege. They are Edith Bolling Wilson, widow of Woodrow Wilson; Edith Carew Roosevelt, Theodore Roosevelt's widow; Frances Cleveland Preston, Grover Cleveland's widow, and Mary Lord Harrison, who married Benjamin Harrison four years after he left the White House and who still survives.

Grover Cleveland's widow draws no pension. The senate passed a bill granting her one, but it provoked so much opposition in the House that she requested that the matter be dropped. Although he had been out of office for ten years at the time of his death, Theodore Roosevelt's widow was provided with \$5,000 a year. Woodrow Wilson's widow receives no pension. *Woman's Club, American 2-19-30*



# NEW MARY LINCOLN LETTER

Washington, March 11.  
 Dear Mr. Anderson  
 My Dear Son  
 I find in my drawer  
 a rather pleasant photograph of my  
 little Tadde, yet not so good as one  
 of Mr. L. I like the little fellow  
 - always it is good, it may interest  
 your children. The picture appears  
 to think it is one of the last  
 - the office made to Mr. B. G. H.  
 he might consider that it was ex-  
 changed, as a gift, please do not fail  
 to express my regards to him. You  
 will understand, even give it to  
 your child, that I regret that Mr. B.  
 did not accept. We are having  
 charming weather. I am  
 happy to say that my children



Above: Photograph of the black-bordered war-time letter written by Mrs. Abraham Lincoln to a New York friend, giving intimate details of White House life.

At left: Mrs. Robert F. Crump, senior law student of Southeastern University of Y. M. C. A., who owns the letter.  
 —Star Staff Photos.

Washington 105  
 105, 106, 107

# MRS. LINCOLN NOTE JUST MADE PUBLIC

Washington Woman Reveals  
Intimate Correspondence  
Written in 1865.

How Mrs. Abraham Lincoln, concerned over her husband's "heavy manner" under wartime stress, succeeded in diverting his mind to the opera, where they had "a very gay little time," is disclosed in an intimate and hitherto unpublished letter she wrote to a friend. The letter, owned by a Washington woman, has just come to the attention of the history department of the Southeastern University of the Y. M. C. A.

## First Time Made Public.

The letter was exhibited publicly for the first time before the history and English classes of the university Friday night by the owner of the quaint missive, Mrs. Robert F. Crump of 615 Sheridan street, a senior law student. Mrs. Crump obtained the letter 20 years ago from A. Wakeman of New York City, son of the man to whom Mary Lincoln addressed the document.

The stationery on which the Civil War First Lady wrote the letter is bordered in black, supposedly in memory of Willie Lincoln, the young son who died in the White House. While the year is not designated in the date line, incidents described indicate the letter was written in 1865, the last year of the war. Apparently it was penned only a few weeks prior to Lincoln's assassination.

## Regrets Offer Considered "Joke."

The letter in full follows:

"Washington, March 20th.

"Hon. Mr. Wakeman,

"My Dear Sir:

"I find in my drawer a rather pleasant photograph of my little Taddie, yet not so good as one of Mr. L. I take the liberty of inclosing it to you; it may interest your children.

"The papers appear to think it is one of Mr. L's 'last jokes,' the offer made to Mr. B. Lest he might consider that it was intended as a jest, please, do not fail to express my regrets to him. You will understand—even give W. to understand, that I regret that Mr. B. did not accept.

"We are having charming weather & I am most happy to say, that my blessed Husband's health has much improved. We went to the Opera on Saturday eve; Mr. Sumner accompanied us & we had a very gay little time. Mr. L., when he throws off his heavy manner, as he often does, can make himself very, very agreeable. Last evening he again joined our little coterie, & tomorrow eve we all go again to hear 'Robin Adair,' sung in 'La dame Blanche' by Habelmann.

"This is always the pleasant time to me in W. Springtime, some few of the most pleasant Senators families remain until June & all ceremony with each other is laid aside.

"Mr. L. most probably goes down to the front (entre nous) this week & wishes me to accompany him. I gladly seize on any change that will benefit him.

"I write, as usual, in great haste.

"Very truly, your friend,

"M. L."

The "Hon. Mr. Wakeman," to whom the letter was addressed, Mrs. Crump understands, was collector of the port of New York. The nature of the appointment which "Mr. B." refused to accept after the newspapers had poked

fun at it is not known, but the mention of it would seem to show that Mrs. Lincoln was interested in her husband's political activities.

The "Mr. Sumner" referred to as a member of the gay opera party presumably was Senator Charles Sumner, noted anti-slavery crusader and close friend of President Lincoln.

Research has shown that President Lincoln did journey to "the front" late in March of 1865, and that he consulted with Grant and Sherman aboard a ship anchored near Richmond, last stand of the Confederates. Whether Mrs. Lincoln went with him has not been established.

## Son Opposed Publication.

The letter has not been made public until now because Mrs. Crump made a promise to Mr. Wakeman, donor of the letter, to withhold it during the lifetime of Robert Todd Lincoln, eldest son of the Emancipator, who was opposed to publication of his father's or mother's letters.

"I had forgotten all about the letter," Mrs. Crump told university officials, "until I saw in a current magazine an article on Mary Lincoln, with several of her letters. Then I remembered the one given to me in 1909 by Mr. Wakeman, whose father had received it."

Mrs. Crump says she was presented with the letter as a reward for writing an essay on Lincoln.

Mary Lincoln Letter

Mar. 20, 1865

MR. WAKEMAN

October 12, 1934

Mrs. Bertha J. Mitchell  
910 N. Broadway  
Enid, Okla.

My dear Mrs. Mitchell:

Upon a visit to Charleston, Illinois in conversing with your sister, Mrs. Isaiah H. Johnston she told me of the letter in your possession which was written by Abraham Lincoln to Mrs. Sally Lincoln.

I am wondering if you would be willing to send on the letter so that we might make a photostat copy of it as we would very much like to have it in the handwriting of Mrs. Lincoln.

Mrs. Johnston was kind enough to give us a copy and it is so interesting we would like to have it photographed, if you do not mind.

If you will send it to us registered, we will be very pleased to return it in the same way.

The Lincoln National Life Foundation is sponsored by The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company, which I think is sufficient guarantee of our dependability.

Very sincerely yours,

LAW:EB

Director  
Lincoln National Life Foundation



Original of this letter with Miss Bertha J. Mitchell

THE EQUITABLE LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY  
OF THE UNITED STATES

HOME OFFICE NEW YORK

THOMAS I. PARKINSON, PRESIDENT

910 N. Broadway  
Evid. Okla.

ISAIAH H. JOHNSTON, SPECIAL AGENT  
835 SEVENTH STREET  
CHARLESTON, ILLINOIS

CHARLESTON, ILL.,

Chicago Dec 19.-61

Private

Dear Sally Lincoln,  
My dear Madam:

In memory of the dearly loved one who always remembered you with so much affection, will you not do me the favor of accepting these few trifles? God has been very merciful to you in prolonging your life and I trust your health has also been preserved.

In my great agony of mind I cannot trust myself to write about what so entirely fills my thoughts of my darling husband.

Knowing how well you loved him also is a grateful satisfaction to me.

Believe me, dear Madam, if I can ever be of any service to you in any respect - I am entirely at your service.

My husband a few weeks before his death mentioned to me that he intended that summer paper respect to his father's grave with a head and foot stone with his name and age - and I propose very soon



THE EQUITABLE LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY  
OF THE UNITED STATES

HOME OFFICE      NEW YORK  
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ISAIAH H. JOHNSTON, SPECIAL AGENT  
835 SEVENTH STREET  
CHARLESTON, ILLINOIS

CHARLESTON, ILL.,

carrying out his intentions.

It was not from want of affection for his father, as you are well aware that it was not done, but his time was so greatly occupied always.

I will be pleased to learn whether this package was received by you.

Perhaps you know that our youngest boy is named for your husband - Thomas Lincoln - this child the idol of his father. I am blessed in both my sons - They are very good and noble. The oldest is growing very much like his own dear father.

I am a deeply afflicted woman and I hope you will pray for me.

I am - my dear Madam -

Affectionately Yours -

Mary Lincoln.

This letter please consider entirely private.  
I shall be pleased to hear from you.



2 Emily Okla  
Nov 17-38.

Mr. Louis A. Warren -

We are mailing in  
to you today - registered  
and insured for \$200 - the  
Lincoln letter -

You seem to be so  
interested - so are we -

It has been in the Johnson  
family a long time and  
very much treasured -

We have been told that  
the Sally Samson chapter  
of the Springfield house  
would give us - but we want  
that - by your best case  
to purchase it that you  
mail it back to us - or  
make some report -

Late to let<sup>2</sup> it go - but it  
would do more good such -  
you have packed away  
much - me -

will away your reply  
We have moved from  
910 West Broadway to  
241 West Walnut -

Please notice the  
change -

Respectfully  
Mrs Bertha Mitchell

Reg. - 2898



United States Post Office

FIRST CLASS

FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

Received from M. A. Cook of the Lincoln Natl  
Life Ins. Reg. 2898 from Martha Mitchell Enid Okla.  
containing <sup>many</sup> letters of Abraham Lincoln received in  
bad condition.

L. G. Ellingham, Actg. P. M.

Geo Beck Registering Clerk



Private

Mrs Lally Finckley

My dear Madam:

of the dearly loved one, who at all times remembered you with so much affection, will you not do me the favor of accepting these few trifles? God has been very merciful to me, in preserving

I am, my dear Madam,  
affectionately,  
Yours,  
Mrs. Lally Finckley

your life and I trust  
health has also been preserved.  
In my great agony of mind  
I cannot trust myself to write  
about what is troubling my  
thoughts, my feelings, my conscience.  
Knowing how well you love  
him also, is a great satisfaction  
to me. Believe me,  
Madam, if I can be  
of any service to you, in



low, but his time was so greatly occupied always. I will be pleased to learn whether this package was received by you - Perhaps you know that our youngest boy, is named for your husband, Thomas Lincoln, this child, the idol of his father - I am blessed in both of my sons, they are very good & noble. The eldest is growing very much like his own dear father. I am a deeply afflicted woman & hope you will hear for me -

ever glad, I am relieved  
your service. My husband  
has sought for a long time  
service to me, but as I am  
now convinced, pursuing a course  
opposed to his wishes, and  
a head & foot stone, with his name  
age at end, I require very soon  
to bring out his intentions. It  
was not from want of affec-  
-tion, or his father, as you see  
in the manner that it was not

~~THE~~ LINCOLN NATIONAL LIFE  
INSURANCE COMPANY

INTER-OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

CHICAGO (E. E. BESSER, JR.) OFFICE

TO Dr. Louis Warren

DATE December 13, 1935.

SUBJECT

LINCOLN NATIONAL  
MAIL DEPARTMENT  
Referred to

RECEIVED  
Answered

Dear Dr. Warren:

I was just informed by a friend of mine that W. R. Anderson, a jeweler at 108 North State Street, has an original two page letter written to Mary Todd by Abraham Lincoln. My friend advised me the letter was signed "Lincoln" and was written when he was 28 years of age.

He asked if there were any other known copies of letters to Mary Todd. Are there? I am writing this to know if you would be interested in knowing more about it.

Yours very truly,

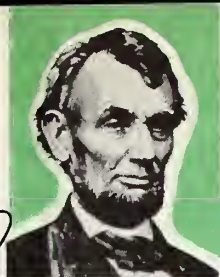
  
Edwin E. Besser, Jr.

EEB/K



Mary Lincoln Letter

Oct. 16, 1861



FARNUM, CARLOS E.

*Agency of*  
THE *Lincoln* NATIONAL  
LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

ITS NAME INDICATES  
ITS CHARACTER

*Home Office*

PAUL J. KIRBY, GENERAL AGENT  
1104 INDUSTRIAL TRUST BLDG.  
PHONE: GASPEE 4984

FORT WAYNE, IND.

PROVIDENCE, R. I.

February 16, 1939

Dr. Louis A. Warren, Historian  
The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company  
100 Milk Street  
Boston, Massachusetts

Dear Dr. Warren:

A rather elderly lady called at my office this afternoon to inquire whether we might be interested in acquiring a letter written by Mary Lincoln from the White House on October 15, 1861.

It appears that this lady noticed my window exhibit on Westminster Street and felt that such an organization might properly consider such an item. I examined the letter today and will attempt to describe it in a simple manner so that you may advise whether the company is interested in such items.

This letter is in the possession of Mrs. Robert L. Stanton-193 Clifford Street, Providence who explains that it was originally owned by a Mr. Carlos E. Farnam to whom it was addressed. He happened to be related in some manner to the present owner who has acquired it in line of natural succession. This letter is a reply from Mary Lincoln to a request made by Mr. Farnam in which Mrs. Lincoln has been asked to honor them by suggesting the several names that might be given to twin daughters recently born in the Farnam home.

The stationery itself is rather odd in that it has a reddish pink border about 1/16th inch wide and also contains the impressed initials M L in Old English form. This letter goes on to apologize for any delay in a reply and then states that "I consider my own name 'Mary' to be a very pretty one and I also like the names of Ella or Alice" it concludes by wishing the family good health and is signed "Mary Lincoln."

Another interesting feature of this letter is that the name of Mary Lincoln actually carries double quotation marks in the original letter and apparently indicates that she wishes to associate her name as given in the body of the letter.

In addition to this letter, Mrs. Stanton also exhibited a daguerreotype of twin girls about 4 years old and states that this photograph has always been associated with the letter as having been the two twin girls referred to in the foregoing.

Dr. Louis A. Warren, Historian

Page 2

Feb. 16, 1939

Both of these items are in excellent condition and Mrs. Stanton advises that she has no one who she feels inclined to give these items and would dispose of them to a permanent collection for the sum of \$100.

I forgot to mention that the Farnam family lived in the town of Tunbridge, Vermont but that the little girls died at a fairly early age.

The letter itself is a most gracious one and certainly coincides with the opinion you have expressed as to certain of Mrs. Lincoln's qualities.

I phoned Miss Cushman about this item and she indicated considerable interest although she stated that the library had no funds available for collection purposes at this time. She volunteered the suggestion that she would be glad to examine and compare it with other items with their collection here and would be only too willing to advise you as to its value. She further stated that they had paid sums from \$47. to \$115. for several other letters written by Mary Lincoln but that none had been acquired during the last 10 years.

Mrs. Stanton also displayed another item of this collection which was an edition of the New York Herald dated Saturday April 15, 1865, and which carried an account of the death of Lincoln. It is a two-page extra edition carrying the following identification: "Vol. xxx--No. 104". The front page also carries an identification number as "whole page 10459". Apparently she is willing to dispose of these items but I am in no position to determine the value of them.

I would greatly appreciate your reaction on this subject so that I may contact Mrs. Stanton accordingly. If you are interested I will arrange to have Mrs. Stanton interview Miss Cushman for the purpose of inspection.

I am writing you under separate cover within the next day or two regarding your recent visit. Frankly, I am unable to express myself clearly at this moment--it seems too good to be true.

Cordially yours,

*Paul J. Kirby*

General Agent

PJK/vo



Atwater,  
Mrs.

ND RAPIDS HERALD, SUNDAY, APRIL 2, 1939

June 30, 1869

# Mary Todd Lincoln Letter Of '69 Comes to Light Here

## Wife of Martyred President Writes About "Taddie" While on Vacation

By ALTA L. LITTELL

A letter from Mary Todd Lincoln, written on June 30, 1869, from Racine, Wis., to a friend in Chicago, has just come to light in Grand Rapids.

The letter is now in the possession of K. Klaas Tol, dealer in old books, at 340 Hall st., SE. It was given him, he says, by a woman customer with the understanding that he might keep it or sell it as he wishes. Who the woman is and how the letter came into her possession, Mr. Tol says he doesn't know.

Apparently Mrs. Lincoln had gone to Racine for a holiday, though she is considering a school for Tad, her youngest son, at that time a youth of 16. A college conducted by the Episcopalian church was at that time located in Racine, and Mrs. Lincoln writes at length of a visit she paid to the institution and of her feeling regarding placing "Taddie" there. The school, like Akely Hall in Grand Haven, has long since "faded out," but the buildings remain in Racine and are occasionally used for entertainments, according to the Rt. Rev. Lewis Bliss Whittemore.

Written to Mrs. S. T. Atwater, Clifton House, Chicago, the letter is unsigned and ends rather abruptly, "I remain yours." The name Mary Lincoln is written on the outside of the envelope and the letter paper bears a simple Old English L.

### Describes Visit to School

It is written in an unusually legible hand and covers six pages—all without a break for paragraphs. It is paragraphed here for ease of reading.

The letter follows:

"My Dear Mrs. Atwater: Feeling assured you would be interested in my movements, I have concluded to write you today. A few hours after I saw you last Monday, a telegram was received from Robert urging that Taddie should immediately proceed to Washington, which he did on Tuesday afternoon at 4 o'clock.

"At the same hour I left in a contrary direction, politely attended by my son's gentleman friend, Norman Williams, and the ever faithful Thomas, to the depot. I am anxiously awaiting the return of my son, you may be sure I miss my little troublesome sunshine Taddie every hour.

"I find the house where I am stopping very neat, clean and everyone anxious to please. I have a parlor and bedroom fronting the lake and I find the air very refreshing. I may probably remain here some weeks, I am finding the rest very beneficial to me, without I am compelled from the necessity of my house neither being rented or sold to return to it.

ferred to. The Wisconsin legislature asked him, in 1867, to resign, but he refused to do so.

Some time later he returned to the Democratic party and ran for governor on that ticket in 1871, but was defeated.

Mrs. Lincoln's plaint that she "had so little left to love," was a bit far-fetched. She still had two sons, Robert, oldest of four, and Tad, or Thomas, the youngest. Tad died, three years later, and Robert lived until 1926. Mrs. Lincoln died in his home, July 16, 1882.

Two other sons of President and Mrs. Lincoln died before the president, Edward Baker, the second, in his infancy, and William Wallace the first year the family was in Washington.



#### Hits at Sen. Doolittle

"I think I shall never undertake housekeeping again. That good husband of yours will agree with me that I am returning to my senses. After all, without my all in life, my dearly beloved husband, why should I seek to find a home? The ever vacant chair is always there and I cannot have a settled feeling where none exists in my heart. Alas! Alas! How everything has changed.

"I find some friends residing here, Sen. Doolittle and family. He himself has stooped very low politically, but his wife is a very sweet, unpretending woman, with great good sense and a very sympathetic heart. She has been twice to see me and last evening she called for me in her carriage to visit the college.

"I cannot express to you how beautifully the last is situated on the banks of the lake, the grounds 90 acres in extent, a complete grove and the buildings situated in the midst. We were, of course, most graciously received by the heads, Prof. Dr. Dekooven, attired very much like a Jesuit priest. With an air of great suavity he conducted us throughout the building.

#### Will Not Part with "Taddie"

"My feelings were especially moved by seeing the little white coats of the boys where they are wont to repose so far away from the loving mothers who would at any moment give almost their life to see them. Everything is beautiful and comfortable, yet how could I, who have been deprived of so much and have so little left to love, how could I separate from my precious child? It appears to be an exaction that each child must board at college. Saturday they attend school and Monday is a holiday.

"As much as I am now feeling the necessity for Taddie being especially cared for and taught obedience by kind and gentle school treatment, yet there was an air of restraint which I did not exactly like. Yet it must be a most excellent school. It is still in session and remains so until 25th of September. Is it not a strange order of things? And then begins again early in November.

"Sen. Doolittle resides almost adjoining the college. The walks here are shady and very pleasant. Each morning I have walked two miles. I scarcely know what I shall do about Taddie. I had not made up my mind to send him to school this summer and I scarcely think I shall.

"We found the boys assembled in chapel practising their music. As you are aware, it is an Episcopalian institution, yet scholars of all denominations attend. I should judge they were high church; their singing amounted to almost a *te deum*.

"How I wish I could see you. Do spare me a day or two down here. Hoping you will soon write, I remain yours."

#### Senator, Lincoln's Friend

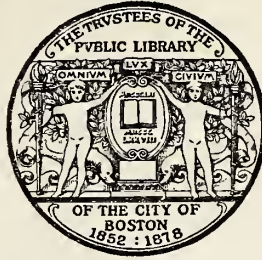
Sen. James Doolittle, who had "stooped so low politically," was during the life of President Lincoln one of his closest friends and advisers. In 1864 when a big mass meeting was called to consider superseding Lincoln, Doolittle, by his fiery eloquence, turned the tide in favor of the president.

Born in New York, he started his political life there as a Democrat, but later wrote what was known as the "cornerstone resolution" for the Free Soil party, a resolution pledging the party to fight extension of slavery into territory then free or new territory which might be added to the United States. This resolution was later taken over by the Republicans and Doolittle followed it into the Republican camp.

He moved to Wisconsin and was elected senator there in 1857, serving until the spring of 1869.

After Lincoln's death, he backed Andrew Johnson and became embroiled with his party, which is probably what Mrs. Lincoln re-

*Miss Benedict*  
*Letter*  
RICHARD G. HENSLEY  
Chief Librarian of the  
Reference Division



MILTON EDWARD LORD, *Director*

ZOLTÁN HARASZTI  
Keeper of Rare Books

# THE PUBLIC LIBRARY *of the* CITY OF BOSTON

Boston, Massachusetts

December 13, 1939

Mr. Louis A. Warren  
Lincoln National Life Foundation  
Fort Wayne, Indiana

Dear Mr. Warren:

The only original Lincoln letter in this Library is dated June 12, 1862. In your letter of December 5, you have given the date as January 12, 1862. I think, however, that this is merely a slip of your pen. In any case, enclosed we are sending you a copy of the letter.

We also have a document by Lincoln. It reads, "Submitted to the Attorney General. A. Lincoln. March 7, 1863."

It might interest you to know that there is in this Library a letter by Mrs. Lincoln written to Colonel Frank E. Howe, dated June 30 -- without the year. It concerns the disposition of a cane formerly owned by Senator Broderick and given to her husband by some California friends.

Sincerely yours,

*Zoltán Haraszi*  
Keeper of Rare Books

ZH:AD  
enc.

JAMES S. HARDY

Philatelist

ADDRESS MAIL TO P. O. BOX 747  
1204 JACKSON BLVD.

CLEARWATER, FLORIDA

July 21

Dear Dr. Warren:-

You may recall the  
writer who formerly lived in  
Glencoe, Ill.

I recently bought some  
nice letters - Thos Jefferson, R. E.  
Lee, etc. and in the lot is one  
that I thought might interest  
you. It is as follows

Washington

May 13, 1865

The Portraits of the  
President & Gen Grant

I consider very ex-  
cellent likeness.

Mary Lincoln

The letter  
was posted  
in a scrap  
book and  
has some  
gum stains  
& a tear but  
could be  
nicely cleaned.

Would you  
care to con-  
sider its pur-  
chase? Please  
inform me.

Yrs  
J S Hardy

Has your collection grown  
a lot recently? Haven't  
seen it for 5 or 6 years

There is  
no  
envelope  
- just a  
single  
page.



# Illinois State News



From DIVISION OF DEPARTMENT REPORTS  
406 STATE CAPITOL, SPRINGFIELD, ILL.

FOR RELEASE IN NEWSPAPERS OF SUNDAY, APRIL 1

401\*\*51

Springfield, Ill., Mar. 31--Loss of nine letters written by Mary Todd Lincoln, destroyed by a chemical which was supposed to preserve them, is revealed in the Spring issue of the Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society which was published Saturday. The contents of the letters, which have never been published before, have been preserved and appear in an article in the quarterly magazine.

The owner of the letters and author of the article is Charles V. Darrin, of Wellsboro, Pa. On the basis of recent New York appraisals, which set a value of \$100,000 on eight letters by Mrs. Lincoln, his loss would seem to be more than that. However, this New York figure is high, according to Dr. Harry E. Pratt, Lincoln authority and editor of the Journal, who based his estimate on the fact that the top known price for a letter by Mrs. Lincoln is only slightly more than \$300. This would make Darrin's loss around \$3,000.

These letters were written by Mrs. Lincoln to her friend and onetime Springfield neighbor, Mrs. John Henry Shearer, a great-aunt of Darrin. In addition to his nine letters Darrin's article in the Journal includes a tenth letter to Mrs. Shearer which was discovered in the manuscript collection of Foreman M. Lebold of Chicago.

Darrin inherited his letters in 1932 from an uncle and, on the advice of a well-known museum, put them between transparent sheets of a newly-developed chemical. About ten years later he took them out and all that he had left was, as he says, "blank paper, powdery stuff from which the writing had disappeared."

All but one of the letters were written from 1859 to 1861. This was the period from about a year before Lincoln was considered for the presidency until about six months after his inauguration.

As Author Darrin says, "These letters represent what were possibly the happiest years of Mrs. Lincoln's life. She had reached

the peak of her career and had no knowledge of the suffering that lay ahead." The last letter, dated Nov. 20, 1864, has an entirely different tone. For nearly three years after the death of her son Willie, Mrs. Lincoln was so grief-stricken that she did not write even to her best friends. Then, when Mrs. Shearer's eldest son died she wrote a letter of sympathy to her friend.

The friendship between Mrs. Lincoln and Mrs. Shearer began in 1856 or '57 when the latter, then Mrs. Edward Rathbun, a widow with two small sons about the ages of Willie and Tad Lincoln, came to Springfield to live with her sister diagonally across the corner of Eighth and Jackson streets from the Lincoln home.

Later Mrs. Rathbun married Dr. Shearer and they moved into a house at another corner of Eighth and Jackson streets. Early in 1859 the Shearers moved to Pennsylvania, and it was then Mrs. Lincoln began writing the letters which she signed, "Your Truly Attached Friend, Mary Lincoln."

Mrs. Lincoln wrote principally about mutual friends, Springfield social activities, her boys, and her trips with Lincoln before the presidential campaign. Then, after the Lincolns went to Washington, she arranged to have Mrs. Shearer accompany her on a visit to the summer resort town of Long Branch, N. J.





# LETTER FOUND! LINCOLN WIDOW WRITES OF ANN

## Declares Alleged Love Affair Mythical

An hitherto unpublished letter written by Mary Todd Lincoln, widow of President Lincoln, in which the greatly perturbed woman sought to give the lie to her husband's alleged love affair with Ann Rutledge, was made available to THE TRIBUNE yesterday by Atty. Willard L. King, 105 W. Monroe st.

The pathetic missive was only recently found by King during his researches for a biography of David Davis of Bloomington, MacLean county, who was appointed to the United States Supreme court by the martyred President and later was administrator of Lincoln's estate.

Mrs. Lincoln wrote Justice Davis from Chicago on March 4, 1867, imploring him to admonish Lincoln's former law partner, William H. Herndon, from spreading gossip that "for the last

23 years Mr. Lincoln had known no joy," as she quoted Herndon.

### Letter Found in Trunk

The widow also declared that "I shall always remain firm in my conviction that Ann Rutledge is a myth—for in all his [her husband's] confidential communica-

tions such a romantic name was never breathed . . ."

King found Mrs. Lincoln's agitated letter in a trunk he examined in Bloomington with David Davis IV, great-grandson of Justice Davis and present Republican nominee for the state senate from the 26th senatorial district.

Both the trunk and Justice Davis' old desk in his study were crammed with papers, many of which appeared to have been untouched since his death in 1886.

Davis, according to King, was a man of great bulk—weighing 350 pounds but only of medium height—who, as a Circuit court judge, rode the circuit with Lincoln thruout central Illinois for 14 years. He is credited by his potential biographer with great influence in Lincoln's nomination for the Presidency in 1860, and Lincoln put him on the Supreme bench after his election.

### Serves as Administrator

After the assassination of Lincoln in 1865, Justice Davis became administrator of his estate and was serving in that capacity when Mrs. Lincoln wrote him the touching letter which is quoted below.

King, in company with other men who have studied Lincoln's life, said that while he felt that the Lincoln-Rutledge tale is largely a myth, as Mrs. Lincoln describes it, he did not believe that publication of the widow's letter would do much to dispel it.

"The American people love the story," King said, "and they also

love the epitaph written by Edgar Lee Masters which is carried on the headstone of Ann Rutledge's grave near Petersburg, Menard county.

"This famous quotation reads, in part:

"'I am Ann Rutledge who sleeps beneath these weeds, Beloved in life of Abraham Lincoln Wedded to him, not thru union, But thru separation. Bloom forever O Republic From the dust of my bosom.'"

### Herndon Lecture Cited

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"Hon. David Davis,

"My dear sir:

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of great significance and indicates more clearly if possible the malignity of his remarks than anything else.

"He pointedly says 'for the last twenty-three years Mr. Lincoln had known no joy'—it was evidently framed for the *amiable* latitude he was breathing and was intended to convey a false impression. There is certainly 'method in his madness.' Will you please direct his maundering mind to that particularly offensive and truthless sentence—he will find if he has no sensibility himself *he will be taught it*. I will rely on you for *this*."

#### Herndon Called Inebriate

"This is the return for all my husband's kindness to this miserable man! Out of pity he took him into his office when he was almost a hopeless inebriate and although he was only a drudge in the place he is very forgetful of his position and assumes a confidential capacity toward Mr. Lincoln."

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always assured me he had cared for no one but myself, the false W. H. [au contraire], I shall always remain firm in my conviction that *Ann Rutledge* is a myth—for in all his confidential communications such a romantic name was never breathed, and concealment could have been no object, as Mr. H's present imagination supposed this pathetic tragedy to occur when Mr. L. was eighteen and I did not know him until he was thirty-two years old!

#### Asks for Letter

"Nor did his life or his joyous laugh lead me to suppose his heart was in any unfortunate woman's grave but in the proper place with his loved wife and children. I assure you it will not be well with him if he makes the *least* disagreeable or false allusion in the future. He will be closely watched. I would not believe an assertion of Herndon's if he would take a thousand oaths upon the Bible."

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"Hoping that your daughter's health is improving and with kind regards to Mrs. Davis, I remain always truly and gratefully

Mary Lincoln"

#### Davis, Herndon Friends

King said the "Mr. Dodge" referred to was then engaged in trying to get congress to vote a pension for Mrs. Lincoln—a move which eventually was successful. He also called attention to the widow's use of the phrase "*au contraire*" [to the contrary] which he said was indicative of her pride in her use of French.

The Chicago attorney's researches have not disclosed whether Justice Davis did discuss Mrs. Lincoln's complaint with Herndon, but he believes that if such a discussion took place it was not a fiery one since Davis and Herndon remained lifelong friends.

As for Lincoln's relations with Herndon, King said that it was significant that in the 12 published volumes of Lincoln's works

and letters, Herndon is the only person referred to by his first name. Lincoln called him "Dear William."

"Herndon drank," King said. "Mrs. Lincoln, when she visited her husband's office, gathered her skirts tightly around her and passed Herndon without speaking."

#### Other Evidence Revealed

"She made the mistake of her life. If she had only spoken to him, she would probably never have heard of Ann Rutledge. Industrious researchers have dug up a letter from a close friend of Lincoln written within a month of Ann's death describing his activities at that time. It does not mention that he was deranged with grief as Herndon asserted."

"They have also found a land-survey made by Lincoln shortly after Ann's death at a time when, according to Herndon, he was so distraught that he could do no work."



# Find Letter of Lincoln Widow Calling Ann Rutledge 'Myth'

BY PERCY WOOD

An hitherto unpublished letter written by Mary Todd Lincoln, widow of President Lincoln, in which the greatly perturbed woman sought to give the lie to her husband's alleged love affair with Ann Rutledge, was made available to THE TRIBUNE yesterday by Atty. Willard L. King, 105 W. Monroe st.

The pathetic missive was only recently found by King during his researches for a biography of David Davis of Bloomington, MacLean county, who was appointed to the United States Supreme court by the martyred President and later was administrator of Lincoln's estate.

Mrs. Lincoln wrote Justice Davis from Chicago on March 4, 1867, imploring him to admonish Lincoln's former law partner, William H. Herndon, from spreading gossip that "for the last 23 years Mr. Lincoln had known no joy," as she quoted Herndon.

## Letter Found in Trunk

The widow also declared that "I shall always remain firm in my conviction that Ann Rutledge is a myth—for in all his [her husband's] confidential communications such a romantic name was never breathed . . ."

King found Mrs. Lincoln's agitated letter in a trunk he examined in Bloomington with David Davis IV, great-grandson of Justice Davis and present Republican nominee for the state senate from the 26th senatorial district.

Both the trunk and Justice Davis' old desk in his study were crammed with papers, many of which appeared to have been untouched since his death in 1886.

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"The American people love the story," King said, "and they also love the epitaph written by Edgar Lee Masters which is carried on the headstone of Ann Rutledge's grave near Petersburg, Menard county.

"This famous quotation reads, in part:

"I am Ann Rutledge who sleeps beneath these weeds,  
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"As you justly remark each and every one has had a little romance in their early days but as my husband was *truth itself* and as he always assured me he had cared for no one but myself, the false W. H. [au contraire], I shall always remain firm in my conviction that *Ann Rutledge* is a myth—for in all his confidential communications such a romantic name was never breathed, and concealment could have been no object, as Mr. H's present imagination supposed this pathetic tragedy to occur when Mr. L. was eighteen and I did not know him until he was thirty-two years old!

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# LETTER FOUND! LINCOLN WIDOW WRITES OF ANN

Declares Alleged Love  
Affair Mythical

[Continued from first page]

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'HE CARED ONLY FOR ME' —

## Lincoln's Love Affair With Ann Rutledge A Myth, President's Widow Wrote Jurist

CHICAGO, May 18 — (P) — Mary Todd Lincoln once indignantly defended her place in the heart of Abe Lincoln and said she believed stories of the Great Emancipator's love affair with Ann Rutledge were a myth.

She said Lincoln "always assured me he had cared for no one but myself."

A letter written by the Civil War President's widow to a supreme court justice was made public today by Willard L. King, a Chicago lawyer and historian.

King said he came across the letter during researches for a biography of David Davis of Bloomington, Ill., Illinois circuit judge who was appointed to the U. S. supreme court by Lincoln.

Davis was administrator of Lincoln's estate. King said he found the letter in papers in the Bloomington home of David Davis IV, great-grandson of Justice Davis and present republican nominee for the state senate.

Historians have said Ann Rut-

ledge and Lincoln were engaged to be married when both lived in New Salem, Ill., but that Miss Rutledge died of fever before they could be wed. Some biographers say Lincoln never recovered from the shock and grieved for her until his own death by assassination.

Mrs. Lincoln's letter was written to Justice Davis after Lincoln's death, King said, and read in part:

"Permit me to point your attention to another sentence in a lecture of the distinguished W. H. (W. H. Herndon, Lincoln's one-time law partner) . . .

"He pointedly says 'for the last 23 years Mr. Lincoln had known no joy'—It was evidently framed for the amiable latitude he was breathing and was intended to convey a false impression. . . . Will you please direct his mauling mind to that particularly offensive and truthless sentence—he will find if he has no sensibility himself he will be taught it. I will rely on you for this.

"This is the return for all my

husband's kindness to this miserable man! Out of pity he took him into his office when he was almost a hapless inebriate and although he was only a drudge in the place he is very forgetful of his position and assumes a confidential capacity toward Mr. Lincoln.

"As you justly remark each and every one has had a little romance in their early days but as my husband was truth itself and as he always assured me had cared for no one but myself, the false W. H. (au contraire), I shall always remain firm in my conviction that Ann Rutledge is a myth—for in all his confidential communications such a romantic name was never breathed, and concealment could have been no object, as Mr. H's present imagination supposed this pathetic tragedy to occur when Mr. L. was 18 and I did not know him until he was 32 years old.

"Nor did his life or his joyous laugh lead me to suppose his heart was in any unfortunate woman's grave but in the proper place with his loved wife and children . . ."

*Evansville Courier May 19, 1952*

### MRS. LINCOLN REPLIES

Mary Todd Lincoln never did like Billy Herndon. Billy Herndon never did like Mary Todd Lincoln. To Mrs. Lincoln it must have seemed that Herndon invented the Ann Rutledge story of Lincoln's first and greatest love in order to hurt the woman Lincoln married. It doesn't really seem that way to us now. Ann Rutledge certainly existed and Lincoln may have loved her. But the letter Mrs. Lincoln wrote to Justice David Davis of Bloomington, Ill., in 1867, to which attention has been called this week has its poignancy. It is the letter of a woman

who has suffered to the point where she can no longer be fair or reasonable. She will not have it that Abraham Lincoln remembered all his life the tragedy that occurred when he was only 26—not, as she thought, 18. There is evidence enough that Mrs. Lincoln did not fully understand her husband nor he her, but there is evidence, too, that there was tenderness between them.

But those who ponder the Lincoln story would not like to lose Ann Rutledge wholly. She lives and will always live in Carl Sandburg's prose poem: "He was twenty-six, she was twenty-two; the earth was their footstool; the sky was a sheaf of blue dreams; the rise of the blood-gold rim of a full moon in the evening was almost too much to live, see and remember." She lives in Edgar Lee Masters' epitaph now on the headstone of her grave near Petersburg, Ill.:

Out of me unworthy and unknown  
The vibrations of deathless music;

\* \* \*

Bloom forever, O Republic,  
From the dust of my bosom!

Lincoln had poetry in his nature and profound melancholy. He was a mingling of the romantic and the practical, the mystic and the realistic. His heart was large. Perhaps there was room in it for the memory of Ann Rutledge and for a deep loyalty to poor Mary Todd, who never smiled again after that tragic April night in Ford's Theatre in 1865.



## Has New 'Proof' Of Ann Rutledge, Lincoln Romance

PETERSBURG, Ill., May 20 (AP)—An 1862 Petersburg newspaper carried the tale of Lincoln's blighted romance with Ann Rutledge and Lincoln didn't deny it, a defender of the contested story said today.

He is E. S. Mitchell, president of the New Salem Lincoln League which annually produces "Forever This Land," a symphonic drama about Lincoln. The drama leans heavily on the romance.

Its acceptance was shaken recently by quotation of a letter by Mrs. Mary Todd Lincoln which suggested that William H. Herndon made up the story out of spite for her.

Mrs. Lincoln wrote to Supreme Court Justice David Davis, of Bloomington:

"I shall always remain firm in my conviction that Ann Rutledge is a myth."

### 'Printed Evidence'

Mitchell denied that the romance is "only an old wives tale."

In a statement Mitchell said:

"Aside from the reminiscences of a lot of people hereabouts who told of the romance, we have printed evidence as published by John Hill in the Feb. 15 issue of the Menard Axis. This article refers specifically to Lincoln's blighted romance."

This account, Mitchell said, appeared four years before Herndon, a law partner and biographer of Lincoln, spoke of the matter in an 1866 lecture.

"If the story were untrue, Lincoln surely would have denied it after its publication in 1862," Mitchell added.

## Letter Says the Emancipator Never Breathed Name of Ann Rutledge

### DOCUMENT FOUND IN TRUNK

## It Asserts Author of Story Was 'a Hopeless Inebriate' of 'a Maundering Mind'

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

CHICAGO, May 18—A hitherto unpublished letter by Mary Todd Lincoln, widow of President Lincoln, in which she tried to discredit assertions of her husband's reported early love affair with Ann Rutledge, was made available for publication today by Williard L. King, a Chicago attorney.

The letter was found recently by Mr. King during his researches for a biography of David Davis of Bloomington, Ill., who was appointed to the United States Supreme Court by Mr. Lincoln and later was administrator of his estate.

Mrs. Lincoln wrote to Justice Davis from Chicago March 4, 1867, imploring him to admonish Mr. Lincoln's former law partner, William H. Herndon, not to spread gossip that "for the last twenty-three years Mr. Lincoln had known no joy," as she quoted Mr. Herndon.

Mrs. Lincoln declared:

"I shall always remain firm in my conviction that Ann Rutledge is a myth—for in all his [her husband's] confidential communications such a romantic name was never breathed \* \* \*."

### Old Trunk Reveals Papers

Mr. King found Mrs. Lincoln's letter in a trunk he examined in Bloomington with David Davis, the great-grandson of Justice Davis and present Republican nominee for the Illinois Senate.

Both the trunk and Justice Davis' old desk in his study were crammed with paper, many of which appeared to have been untouched since his death in 1886.

Mr. King, a student of Mr. Lincoln's life, said today that he had "never heard of anybody seeing Mrs. Lincoln's letter before," and that he had no doubts of its authenticity.

Mr. King is a member of the American, Illinois and Chicago Bar Associations, a former president of the Chicago Law Institute, trustee of the Illinois State Historical Society, member of the Chicago Historical Society and member of the board of governors of the Menninger Foundation. He is also co-author of "The Law of Opinion Evi-

"That is a new letter to me. It sounds very interesting and very much in line with other information which we have in Mary Lincoln's correspondence. It sounds very much like her other letters."

Mr. Rasler is editor of a fourth-coming collection of Mr. Lincoln's works that is to be published jointly by the association and the Rutgers University Press.

### Letter Held Authentic

Paul M. Angle, director of the Chicago Historical Society, declared there was "no question about the authenticity of the letter." He had "never put much faith in the Ann Rutledge story," he said.

Ralph M. Newman of Chicago, proprietor of the Abraham Lincoln Book Shop in Chicago and possessor of one of the largest collections of Lincoln manuscripts in the country, said:

"There isn't the slightest doubt of the letter's authenticity. There have been mentions of Ann Rutledge in her [Mrs. Lincoln's] other letters, but she has never stated her grievance so well."

Mr. Newman described Mr. King as "one of the best literar' detectives in the country." The source of Mr. King's discovery proves its authenticity, he said.

In making public Mrs. Lincoln's letter, Mr. King recalled the epitaph written by Edgar Lee Masters in "The Spoon River Anthology." The epitaph is on the headstone of Ann Rutledge's grave near Petersburg, Ill. It reads:

### ANNE RUTLEDGE

Out of me unworthy and unknown  
The vibrations of deathless music;  
"With malice toward none, with  
charity for all."

Out of me the forgiveness of millions toward millions,

And the beneficent face of a nation  
Shining with justice and truth.

I am Ann Rutledge who sleep beneath these weeds,

Beloved in life of Abraham Lincoln,  
Wedded to him, not through union,

But through separation.

Bloom forever, O Republic,

From the dust of my bosom!

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Continued From Page 19

had delivered a lecture in Springfield stating Mr. Lincoln's unhappiness. The reference to Ann Rutledge, Mr. King believes, follows on earlier conversation between the widow and Justice Wavis on the subject.

### Text of the Letter

The letter follows as Mrs. Lincoln wrote it, with the words she underscored printed in italics:

Hon. David Davis,

My Dear Sir:

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"Herndon drank," Mr. King said. "Mrs. Lincoln, when she visited her husband's office, gathered her skirts tightly around her and passed Herndon without speaking."

"She made the mistake of her life. If she had only spoken to him, she would probably never have heard of Ann Rutledge."



MARY TODD LINCOLN. Autograph Letter Signed, with initials, 3 full pages, octavo, with an unsigned postscript on page four. (Washington), September 31, (1862). On her monogrammed, black-bordered stationery, in memory of her son, Willie. With black-bordered envelope, addressed by Mrs. Lincoln to Brig. General Daniel E. Sickles, Metropolitan Hotel, Washington, D.C.

Sept. 31st

*Offered by  
Royal Richards  
\$500.  
5/25/63*

Gen. Sickles:

My Dear Sir

Allow me to assure you, of the gratification it gave the P. to see you last evening. In our daily circles, your name is frequently & deservedly mentioned, as being among the most prominent & energetic of our brave Union defenders. I should like to have had a social chat with you, about Virginia affairs & if you remain a day or two in the city, hope to have the pleasure of seeing you again. We always have so many evening callers, that our conversations, necessarily are general. When we are within hearing, as we on this elevation have been, for the last two or three days, of the roaring cannon, we can but pause & think. Yet, as to Washington, yielding to the Rebels, a just Heaven, would prevent that. If you are in W. on Monday and, if you have leisure & of course, are so disposed, can you not drive out about 11 o'clock, in the morning. Mr. L. has so much to excite his mind, with fears for the Army, that I am quite considerate in expressing my doubts & fears to him, concerning passing events. If more convenient to you, I could see you, tomorrow morning, at same hour, designated, yet would prefer Monday.

Your friend,

M.L.

A line directed to care of "Edward McManus, especial Messenger" will receive attention.



# Mary Todd's Love for Lincoln Relived in Historic Letters

## Chicago Exec Philip Sang Collects Priceless Documents

BY JOSEPH L. HAAS

**H**ISTORY was made by men and women just like you and me, says a Chicago businessman whose hobby is collecting the documents that form the flesh for history's bones.

This is one of the most important insights his hobby has given him, explained Philip V. Sang, vice president of the Goldenrod Ice Cream Co.

"These men and women were all mortal, and I don't stand in awe of them anymore," said the brisk, graying executive. "But because I know more of their humanity, I think I have more affection, understanding and interest in them."

The River Forest man has devoted 40 years to collecting documents, a hobby begun when he was a junior at Armour Institute, now Illinois Institute of Technology.

The 58-year-old grandfather credits his interest to a teacher at Crane High School here who made history more than "just names and dates on a blackboard."

Sang doesn't let his collection gather dust in private archives — he circulates it to benefit history scholars throughout the nation.

**RECENTLY** Rutgers University, New Brunswick, N.J., exhibited 18 of his letters written by Mary Todd Lincoln, wife of the great Civil War President.

"These letters show us, as much as anything else, what kind of a woman Mary Todd was and how much she loved Lincoln," he said.

The first three letters were written when Mrs. Lincoln was a 22-year-old belle in the Springfield (Ill.) social whirl, where she met a lanky young attorney, Lincoln.

In one, dated December, 1840, she writes to a girl friend of planning "a pleasant jaunt" to Jacksonville, Ill., with "my humble self, Webb, Lincoln & two or three others.

"We are watching the

clouds most anxiously," she wrote, "trusting it may snow, so we may have a sleigh ride — Will it not be pleasant?"

Later letters show the strain of being the wartime President's wife, her heartbreak at his death, her disturbed mental state thereafter.

**SANG'S COLLECTION** includes papers written or signed by every American President from Washington to Kennedy.

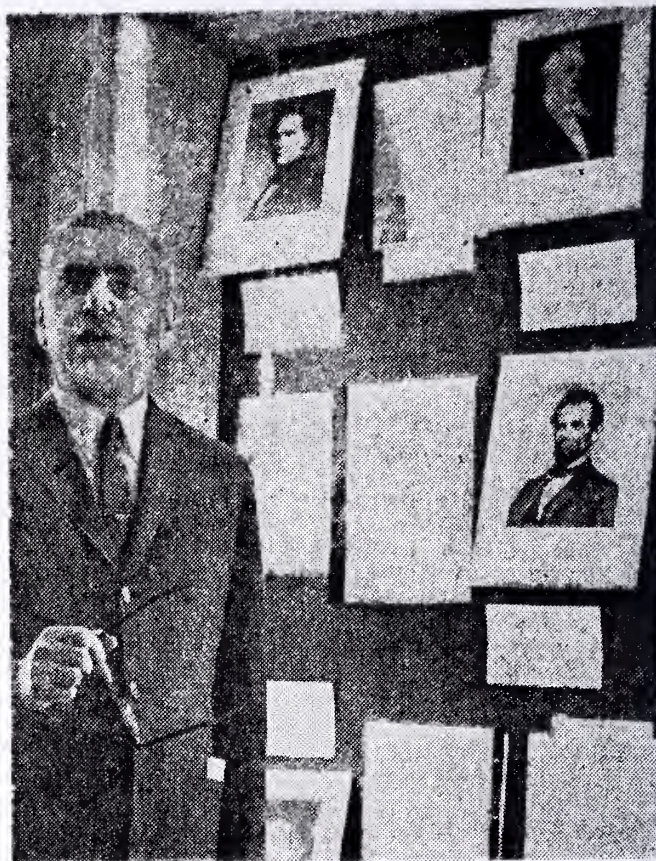
His papers include those penned by figures such as Madison, Franklin, Revere, Hancock, Jefferson, Burr, Bonaparte, Crockett, Houston, Lenin, Hitler and scores more.

Where does he get them? ("A collector doesn't reveal his sources," he said.

What are they worth? ("To discuss cost is mundane," he said, adding, "They're priceless."

**SOME OF** the documents cast spotlights on great historic moments. Others glow with sidelights on history that tend to humanize it. Among them are:

—The original order signed by John Hancock, then president of the Continental Congress, promoting Benedict Arnold to major-general and praising his



Philip Sang with a display of historical documents during exhibit at Southern Illinois University.

"patriotism, valour, conduct and fidelity."

—The marriage bond signed in 1827 by Andrew Johnson, later to become President after Lincoln's assassination, in which he misspelled his name.

"Johnson was almost illiterate until his 20s," said Sang. "His bride helped him master the struggle to learn to read and write."

—A note in which Lincoln directed the Treasury to date his presidential paychecks starting April 5, when he took office, and not April 1.

"He didn't want to take four days pay that wasn't coming to him," Sang said.

—A letter written to a friend by Capt. Henry Wirz, in prison awaiting trial for his role as commander of Andersonville, the infamous Confederate prison, in which

he blamed his superiors for the prison's hardships and said, in part:

"Many a time have I asked myself the question: Great God is it possible that I should suffer for the faults of others? there are moments when I even doubted that I was the Captain Wirz spoken off (sic), that fiend, that devil held up to the just execration of the world."

Wirz was convicted in what could be called the Adolph Eichmann trial of his day. He was hanged Nov. 10, 1865.

# JOSEPH RUBINFINE

R.F.D. No. 1 PLEASANTVILLE, NEW JERSEY 08232 (609) 641-3290

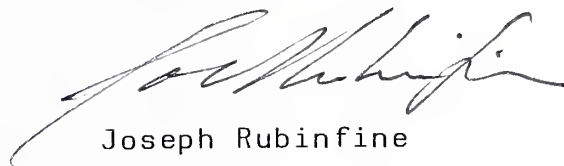
December 27, 1980

Mr. Mark E. Neely, Jr.  
Louis A. Warren Lincoln Library & Museum  
1300 South Clinton Street  
Fort Wayne, IN 46801

Dear Mr. Neely:

Inclosed is a copy of our description of an item of possible interest, scheduled for our next catalog. We wanted to give you this advance notice and will be pleased to send for your inspection.

Sincerely,



Joseph Rubinfine

JR/rr



AUTOGRAPHS - MANUSCRIPTS  
HISTORICAL AMERICANA





34 LINCOLN, MARY, TODD First Lady.

Autograph Letter Signed, in pencil, 4 full pages, 8vo, Miller's Hotel, New York, Dec. 15, 1881. To N. W. Miner.

An invalid living at a sort of nursing home, Mrs. Lincoln here addresses the friend who worked in her behalf in her last days, concerning his efforts to induce Congress to raise her pension. Typical of her at this time but a most poignant letter.

"As you expressed yourself willing to go down to Washington to urge my claims upon Congress - especial friends there - hope & trust that you will proceed there at once. I will meet your expenses...if success attends your invaluable efforts you will not be forgotten believe me. It will be necessary for you to be in Wash. Saturday morning next at furthest - so do come tomorrow with your carpet satchel & report here, please before you start. Dr. Miller wishes to see you...I am suffering very greatly, with spine & limbs...Congress will soon adjourn...not an hour is to be lost. I wrote to Mrs. Miner - the other day - I regret that I cannot afford at present, to send but one person - illness is very expensive. Please do not have a word written to Springfield, that amiable city. Let me see you without the least delay..."

Her signature, "Mary Lincoln," is cross-written on the edge of the fourth page. With allowance for the smudging usually found in pencil letters, condition is excellent. Mrs. Lincoln died seven months after the date of this sad message, likely the latest letter in private hands of one of the most misunderstood persons prominent in American history.

1750.00



to Hubert P. Main  
4-9-1866

## Letter by Lincoln's wife found

By Doug Pokorski  
Copley News Service

RUSHVILLE — A letter written by Mary Todd Lincoln nearly 130 years ago has been discovered at the Rushville Public Library, where it apparently had lain unnoticed in a basement file cabinet drawer since the 1930s or earlier.

The letter, a routine reply to a request for an Abraham Lincoln autograph, is one of about 600 known letters written by Mary. It was part of a collection of items donated to the library by Albert Morris Bagby sometime between 1913 and the 1930s, according to librarian Charlene Copeland.

Bagby was a member of Rushville's Scripps family, heir to the Scripps publishing empire, Copeland said. A bon vivant opera-lover who traveled the world pursuing his interests in music, Bagby kept a house in Rushville and demonstrated his commitment to the community by donating 2,000 books to the library when it opened in 1913.

Bagby also donated some artwork to the library, Copeland said, a fact that indirectly led to the discovery of the Mary Lincoln letter. Former library board member David Mace had contacted David Bourland, a Springfield art restorer, to look at some of the art and give an estimate on restoring some paintings.

After examining the paintings, the pair began rummaging through some of the rest of the Bagby material.

"They were just browsing through the stuff out of curiosity," Copeland said.

There, in a bottom drawer of a file cabinet, they found an old biography of Lincoln. Inside the book was the letter from Mary, dated April 9, 1866 a little less than a year after her husband's death.

"It was like finding a small treasure," Copeland said.

The letter was in answer to a Hubert P. Main, Esq. who had asked for a copy of the president's signature.

"I cannot recall whether I have replied to your note requesting the autograph of my deeply lamented husband the president," she wrote. "I sincerely regret my inability to comply with your request, as I have none left in my possession, as so many calls have been made upon me for them."

The letter is signed "I am respectfully, Mrs. A. Lincoln."

Copeland said she had never opened the book in her seven years as librarian, nor had her two predecessors. As far as anyone knows, Mace and Bourland were the first to find the letter.

It is even possible that Bagby himself did not know the letter was in the book when he donated it. A note that accompanied the collection referred to the book, but made no mention of the letter.

Copeland speculated that Bagby may have bought the book at auction, then donated it to the library.

The letter, which has been authenticated by Illinois State Historian Tom Schwartz, is currently in the library's bank lock box, where it is keeping company with other Bagby donations, including a document written by composer Franz Liszt. No monetary value has been established for the Mary Lincoln letter, Copeland said.

A professional preservation specialist will be hired to deacidify and encapsulate it, she said. Beyond that, it will be up to the library board to determine what to do with the letter.

It's probably too fragile to be put on permanent display, she said, but occasional special displays might be possible.

to lay the groundwork for the province's recovery.

"We want to make the information centers in Kosovo a library online," Ozeas said.



## **Illinois Historical Library Buys Mary Lincoln Letters**

The Henry Horner Lincoln Collection at the Illinois State Historical Library has acquired five newly discovered letters written by Mary Todd Lincoln. The letters were purchased for \$34,250 from descendants of her doctor, Willis Danforth.

Believed to have been written in 1874, just months before her insanity trial, the letters provide a rare glimpse into the mind of President Abraham Lincoln's widow and reveal her obsession with death, following the deaths of her husband and three of her four sons. She was deemed insane in 1875, spent over a year in a sanitarium, and died in 1882.

Although the sellers wished to remain anonymous, the *Chicago Tribune* reported September 9 that they sold the letters for half their appraised value. Nevertheless, the purchase is one of the largest ever made by Illinois for letters by Mary Todd Lincoln.

The Horner Collection preserves nearly 1,500 manuscripts written or signed by Lincoln, 10,000 books and pamphlets, 1,000 broadsides, and 1,000 prints and photographs relating to Abraham Lincoln and his family.

## **SLD Names New VP for Outreach**

The Schools and Libraries Division (SLD) of the Universal Service Administrative Company, which administers the federal e-rate program, announced September 8 that Linda Schatz will become the agency's vice-president for outreach October 8.

Since 1995, Schatz has been director of the Michigan Information Network in Lansing, where she established a statewide process for coordinating the purchase of telecommunications services among libraries, rural health care providers, schools, and other educational and local governmental entities.

Earlier, Schatz was director of educational telecommunications for Iowa Public Television, where she

# NEW LIGHT ON LINCOLN DEATH

A new side to the assassination of Abraham Lincoln has been brought to light this month by the publication of two letters about Lincoln in Mrs. Lincoln's own handwriting, and never before published. They express his wife's conviction that the murder would have been done at the White House if Lincoln had not gone to the theater. The letters reveal what Lincoln said and did in the hours preceding the tragedy. They also give Mrs. Lincoln's version of the duel between Lincoln and Editor Shields.

The Editor of Cosmopolitan Magazine, which prints them, explains that they were written to F. B. Carpenter, an artist who had painted Lincoln's portrait, and came by inheritance to Paul Coster Jr., of New York.





Chicago Oct 26<sup>th</sup> 1865.

Mr Frank B Carpenter

My Dear Sir

In the midst of my  
overwhelming duties, the Lord  
promised you several times  
made me, in regard to my  
beloved husband's portrait,  
returns to my remembrance.  
Will you not, send us, one  
quite as accurate, as in the  
"Emancipation Proclamation"  
More, we could not ask or  
expect - As one, whom my  
lamented husband, so highly  
respected - we will always

hope, to see you, should you  
visit Chicago - I have always  
felt, great pride, in the success  
of your great painting, laid  
down, with such intense

sorrow, think of what in-  
-estimable value, a portrait  
from your unerring skill,  
would be prized by myself,  
and my Boys - Please  
present my regards to  
Mrs Carpenter - and be assured  
of my sincere esteem

Mary Lincoln

ITEMS FROM TOWNSEND COLLECTION—The picture at the top shows President Abraham Lincoln and Mary Todd Lincoln as they appeared at the White House in 1864. Below is a reproduction of a letter from Mrs. Lincoln about her husband's portrait. The original of this unpublished letter and the picture of Mr. and Mrs. Lincoln are in the collection of William H. Townsend, Lexington attorney, author and authority on the life of the martyred President, who is a member of the advisory group of the Lincoln foundation.







FOUND

## In the Secret Drawers

## Of an Old Desk Sold at Auction

## Letters Written By Mrs. Abraham Lincoln

## Soon After the Assassination of Her Husband.

## Sharp Thrusts at Wealthy Men in Power Because of Neglect of the Martyr's Family.

## SPECIAL DISPATCH TO THE ENQUIRER.

NEW YORK, January 23.—The Journal this morning says:

A package of 20 letters written by Mrs. Abraham Lincoln, hitherto unpublished, has just been discovered in a downtown warehouse under the most extraordinary circumstances.

Among a lot of old office furniture sold at auction was a desk, once the property of Norman S. Bentley, of the famous wholesale grocery firm of Bentley & Burton, Nos. 14 and 16 Beaver street.

Mr. Bentley was a public-spirited citizen, intensely loyal to the Government, and an intimate friend of the Lincoln family.

After the assassination of the President, he interested himself in raising a fund for the purpose of buying Mrs. Lincoln a home.

Efforts were made to the same end in other directions. Congress voted but \$25,000, the President's yearly salary.

A popular one-dollar subscription fund was also started, but didn't prove a success. Finally New York merchants headed a subscription to buy a home for Mrs. Lincoln and her family.

Shattered in health and heart-broken over the loss of her husband, Mrs. Lincoln was in great distress at this time.

To Mr. Bentley, the New York merchant and friend, she wrote unreservedly. He kept her letters privately filed away in a secret drawer in his desk. After his death all his papers were removed except those in the secret drawer. No one knew of their existence until recently, when the old office furniture was bought at auction and the hidden drawer discovered by chance in carting away the desk.

Mrs. Lincoln's letters are a part of the history of the war and the dramatic episodes immediately following the great conflict. Eight of the sharpest and most striking letters of this remarkable woman are here printed. The references to Grant, Sherman, Greeley, Henry Raymond, Governor E. D. Morgan, Senator Wilson, E. B. Washburne and other national leaders of the day make the letters of great historic interest.

Private.

"TREMONT HOUSE, CHICAGO, May 31, 1865.

"MR. NORMAN S. BENTLEY: Your note was received a day or two since. I regret to

learn from you of the death of our noble and excellent friend, Mr. A. T. Stewart.

"I hope, also, that it may prove a rumor, as so good a man can scarcely be spared. I find the noise of this miniature New York at the present fair time, and with my wretchedness almost insupportable. I propose to go out to the country, six or seven miles, on the lake shore, in a few days, to pass the summer months. The cars pass every hour, and my son, Robert, can go into the city to his business every morning and return in the evening.

"My health is very miserable and my nerves so completely shattered that quiet is very necessary to me. And what is very essential to us, in our unexpected desolation, we find that boarding in the city in a quiet manner, with two small rooms and a parlor, costs us \$21 per day—a third more than our means would allow, even if our affairs were adjusted a year hence. Our irreparable bereavement overshadows everything else. All the changes in other respects we may be called upon to endure are as nothing when we realize every moment what a great loss we have sustained. Although we will not be in the city, a letter directed to us to the Tremont House will be received. Very respectfully,

"MRS. A. L."

The reported death of A. T. Stewart was false, for he did not die until 1876.

"NEAR CHICAGO, July 5, 1865.

"M. BENTLEY—My Dear Sir: Your last note has been received, and I will write you a reply as to your inquiries about Judge Davis and Mr. McCay. The first named gentleman is somewhere East at present. Although a kind-hearted man enough, I think he interests himself very little whether we board or live in the style we should, as becoming our position.

"To give you an instance: When we saw him last we mentioned that Mr. Coffee, of Philadelphia, who had been associated with Judge Bates in Washington in his department. Mr. C. (Judge Coffee) wrote to Judge D. to inquire what were our circumstances, and whether we were without a home, as reported to him. Judge Davis remarked to me that as it was a delicate subject for him to write about, he asked a friend to reply. You can judge of his interest, and he is one of the very many who is indebted beyond measure to my noble husband for everything. It would be better, perhaps, not to write to Mr. McCay, as R. (Robert) is in his office. Mr. Arnold is here from W. (Washington) yet. I have no expectations from any of these people. If they had been inclined to do anything it would have been done before now.

"Self rules these people, and they do not value position in the least. The assistance yourself and Mr. Sherman and Mr. Greeley will have given us through your untiring energy and goodness will be all, I presume, ever extended to us.

"You will pardon the suggestion I am going to make, yet I think, and do you not do the same, that after the 1st of September the dollar subscription should be withdrawn? It subjects us to much remark, and such men as Governor Morgan, of New York, Hooper, of Boston, &c., would rather give fifty thousand apiece than to have it mentioned in the papers, I think. I hope, too, Mr. G. (Greeley) will not again publish a list of contributors and amount. This is embarrassing, and inclines persons to forward less. I think private circulars are best.

"I only offer these suggestions to you privately. If, in speaking candidly, I have erred, pray excuse me. I do not deny that I am anxious for a home, and would be pleased to learn from you from time to time the amounts received. Your great kindness will ever be most gratefully remembered by, yours very truly, Mrs. L."

"From very good authority I learn that Raymond (H. W. Raymond the editor) applied three months since for the privilege of looking over my husband's private papers. As this favor was refused, as no one, not even Judge D. or my son had done so, we can infer the cause of his pique against us; a small-minded man, indeed!

"I have written to you and freely mentioned names, which I am sure, with you, will be safe. If I have too freely expressed my opinion in reference to what you and others are so kindly doing in our behalf, pray excuse me and believe me, gratefully,

"M. L."

Robert and T. desire to be remembered to you.

"CHICAGO, January 22, 1865.

"MR. NORMAN S. BENTLEY—My Dear Sir: Your letter is just received. How truly contemptible the conduct of Congress is—

to be willing to see us forever without a home. By no means begin again—dollar subscriptions. By going to each moneyed person in New York Christmas week and saying that you are raising a sum to purchase house and furniture for us, just now, while sympathy is excited, you can surely get it. Delay not a day longer. I pray you to settle the fur bills, &c., as requested. Wentworth has just written me that some mention of them has recently been made in Washington. Can it be possible that Godfrey, in working for us, mentioned it? I am sure Mr. Stewart will help toward house now, at this particular time, if you try him.

"I beg, I entreat, that you settle the fur business and some small bills with the money you have now. Judge D. (Davis) has been writing about them and I do not condescend to explain to him, for I do not believe he desired the four years' salary for us.

"A President's family to remain forever homeless is a disgrace to the country. Five thousand dollars apiece for a home from (A. T.) Stewart, Governor Morton and others this Christmas they would not feel.

"I beg you to settle those bills now for me. If you act on my advice you will find it for the best. Stewart would not fail to advance. I trust your wife and child are improving in health. Hoping you will act and write, I remain, truly,

M. L."

"CHICAGO, December 24, 1865.

"MR. BENTLEY—My Dear Sir: Your last letter has been received. This has been a very terrible week to me. On last Wednesday evening I went down to Springfield to visit the cemetery, and we returned here on Friday morning.

"You speak of Senator Wilson of Massachusetts and his threats to Senators. Why was he not allowed to indulge his malignity and thereby add eternal disgrace to his name and to the body he represented? I am not afraid of the records of my life being placed before the public, even by a public paid hireling as Wilson is low enough to become. But I would venture to say if he had dared utter a word against me there in the presence of some of my friends, he would have been collared.

"A man whose origin was originally so low and degraded that the Legislature of Massachusetts changed his name, which is true, would not hesitate to attack a lonely, defenseless, broken-hearted woman, the widow of one who in our country's fiercest struggles was never sparing in his attacks on my great and good husband. Of course, such a man would be willing to rob the widow and orphan of their just rights—a home.

M. L."

"CHICAGO, December 29, 1865.

"MR. NORMAN S. BENTLEY—My Dear Sir: Your letter is received and I write you a line in haste. May I request you to go to Mr. Moser (the fur dealer), and have him make his bill as small as possible. Have Mr. Sherman aid you in this; he will have much influence. You find what I told you is correct. My boys do not desire to have a cent of the 'dollar fund,' and I pray to heaven it may suffice for the fur bill and some smaller Washington accounts. I entreat you to have Moser cut down his bill and let me have it. It must be settled immediately. If this bill were mentioned to the members of Congress as Wentworth represents and it deprived me of the \$1,000, I pay dearly enough for the furs. Tell me, did Godfrey do this, entre nous. W. spoke of New York accounts—this is all I have there.

"Would not Mr. Stewart or some persons this year aid us in getting a home? The paper mentions this morning that \$100,000 has been raised in New York to present to

May  
July  
Jan.  
Dec.  
Aug.  
Aug.  
Dec.

1865



Grant on New-Year's Day. Three elegant houses have been given him within the last 18 months, and a grateful nation decrees that we shall be homeless! See that Moser acts right immediately. In haste, very truly,  
M. L."

"CHICAGO, August 19, 1865.

"NORMAN S. BENTLEY, Esq.—My Dear Sir: Your last note has been received and as I have not our kind, plain-spoken friend, Dr. Henry, to communicate with you, I have concluded to express myself quite freely to you. I must acknowledge when we take into consideration the great and overwhelming sorrow that has oppressed me this summer, a noisy life at a country hotel has been very painful to me. Of late the dining out has increased and balls have been held at the house. Respect to myself and my sons, even if the country feels no interest, demands that I must have a more quiet home, and certainly we should have one in accordance with our station, but of our own limited means the latter we cannot provide.

"You must remember my inquiring of you very particularly about a letter I wrote you very early in the summer, stating exactly what we had—Judge Davis estimated exactly \$75,000. Ten thousand of it included the house in Springfield, which only rents for \$300, covered mostly by repairs; 120 acres very poor land in Iowa and some bad debts. The remaining \$65,000 to be divided into three parts—a very small portion of Taddie's to be used for himself. We have in reality about \$1,500 apiece to board and clothe ourselves in the plainest manner.

"When we reflect that our roving Generals have handsomely furnished mansions presented to them indiscriminately—General Sherman a \$30,000 one the other day, General Grant a \$50,000 one in Philadelphia and another one in Galena—the question naturally arises, was not my beloved husband greater and better than all these, and did not he sacrifice his life for his country? It only indicates the character of the American people—the widow and orphans of the martyred President are homeless, truly and the men appointed under their great and deserving chief have more houses than they can occupy!

"Will you allow me to explain to you how this might be remedied by the first of September, even? As to raising a house by means of the dollar subscription, that would simply be impossible. I think that might go on quietly until the first of November. Yet in the meantime so soon as you receive this, if such men as A. T. S. (A. T. Stewart), Governor M. (Morgan) and some other such were approached by saying you were making up sums for the purchase immediately of a house in C— (Chicago) as we were without one and it would be mortifying to the A— (American) people if we were left thus, my word for it, by the 1st of September a sufficient sum could be quietly raised, without any newspaper mention to purchase a desirable residence. The \$14,500 you have, united with your other contributions, would assist us in keeping it up. There are two or three beautiful residences now offered for sale at about \$85,000, such homes as I should enjoy and where I could receive and welcome my husband's friends and our own.  
M. L."

"CHICAGO, August 31, 1865.

"MR. NORMAN S. BENTLEY—My Dear Sir: \* \* \* I often wish myself in New York, if I could be entirely incog.—unrecognized by any one. As a matter of course, from time to time I had a few little rare articles of jewelry given me—some of them never worn. Do you think I can dispose of them quietly in New York—where the articles are sold? I wish to dispossess myself of all such things that will serve to arrange our affairs and enable us to live out of a boarding house.

"I also had a claim to a small extent sent me from Nevada last winter—a few shares in the mines, the Empress Eugenie and Indian Queen Mining Companies, Virginia City. How much I wish something could be secured from these. Yet I have a very faint heart about it. My sons desire to be remembered to you. I remain very gratefully and respectfully.  
M. L."

"CHICAGO, December 19, 1865.

"MR. BENTLEY—My Dear Sir: The papers this morning give us the very gloomy announcements that only the first year's salary is given us, and that in consequence we are forever to be without a home! The large and generous hearts of the American nation allow this! The slight addition of the \$25,000 will just enable us to pay our board in full. As plain as this boarding house is, each of our \$1,800 a year did not fully cover our board, as everything is so enormously high here, as elsewhere.

"I earnestly entreat you to settle for the furs and some small bills which Mr. Williams will bring on to you. With the money you have let us settle these affairs and you will never again be troubled by your unhappy friends.  
M. L."





